YUKON CONSERVATION STRATEGY

For Our Common Future

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Dedicated to the Yukon's elders, who have shown us the way, and to the Yukon's children, who will follow.

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A Message from the Minister

It is with considerable pride and enthusiasm, that the Government of Yukon, through the Yukon Conservation Strategy, makes a formal and lasting commitment to conserve the territory's resources and to protect its environment.

The Yukon Conservation Strategy has its roots in the Task Force on Northern Conservation, the Select Committee on Renewable Resources, and the Yukon Economic Strategy. These earlier community-based initiatives are reflected in this Strategy's recommendations and commitments.

I am particularly grateful for the dedicated efforts of the Public Working Group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy. The thoughts and views of its members and the direction they provided have fundamentally shaped the Strategy. Their contribution underlines my belief that while government must take the lead on many of the actions recommended, individual thought and action is essential for success in achieving the Strategy's most important goals.

To ensure continuing public involvement in, and awareness of, the Yukon Conservation Strategy, our government has established the Yukon Council on the Economy and Environment. Important roles of the Council will include monitoring implementation of the Strategy and updating it periodically.

I look forward to active, efficient implementation of our conservation commitments by all Yukoners.

Sincerely,

Art Webster
Minister of Renewable Resources

A Message from the Public Working Group

The Individual Challenge

The development of a conservation strategy is but the first small step in coming to terms with the problems of our environment. A commitment to make the changes that will allow us to live in harmony with the environment is now necessary. Encouraging this commitment should be the main thrust of collective action.

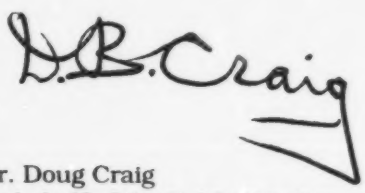
It is the individual who is responsible for the destruction of our environment, and it will be individuals who will ultimately determine whether it will be saved. While our institutions serve as vehicles for change, institutional actions should be viewed as a supplement to, rather than a substitute for, individual actions.

An understanding and acceptance of our obligations is necessary to build commitment and guide our actions:

- ***It is our obligation to respect the planet and understand its limitations.***
- ***It is our obligation to teach that respect and understanding to our young.***
- ***It is our obligation to understand the effects of our present consumptive patterns and the need for change.***
- ***It is the obligation of our leaders to live a lifestyle that sets a positive example.***

When we have learned as individuals to appreciate our obligations and act on them, the human community will live in harmony with the planet and the planet's other creatures. If we make the problem more complex than that, we will only delay its resolution.

This page encapsulates the philosophy of a Yukon Conservation Strategy, as perceived by the Public Working Group. This group consisted of Yukoners from business, industry, and non-profit organizations as well as unaffiliated concerned citizens.



Dr. Doug Craig
on behalf of the Public Working Group
on the Yukon Conservation Strategy

Introduction

The Yukon is a land rich in spectacular mountains, untouched wilderness, and glacier-fed streams and lakes. It is a land with a long history of human interaction with the natural environment. For centuries aboriginal people have followed the caribou and the moose and the great seasonal runs of fish. The Yukon's natural resources brought the first non-natives to the territory in search of furs and later, gold.

Over the years we have taken steps to protect our natural and heritage resources and the traditional ways of the Yukon First Nations. Now we must take a broad look at our natural and heritage resources and find ways to maintain them for today and tomorrow. This is the function of a conservation strategy.

A conservation strategy is a way of looking at our resources as an integrated whole. It helps us to decide what we want from, and for, these resources and our environment.

Conservation does not only mean preservation. We do want to preserve and protect some elements of our natural world. But conservation also means using and managing our resources for our economic and social well-being now and in the future. This concept, known as sustainable development, is at the heart of a conservation strategy.

A conservation strategy is, of course, a plan for conserving our resources. But it is also a development plan, a plan for sustainable development. In other words, it is a plan based on the principle that we cannot use up resources or harm the environment if we want this environment and these resources to continue to support development activities.

Economic development and prosperity depend on a continuous supply of raw materials. We need the economic well-being that comes from development. But we also need to live in a healthy environment.

We have the opportunity through a conservation strategy to protect the Yukon's natural and human heritage and to ensure the continued viability of its renewable resources. We have an opportunity to ensure that mining and oil and gas-related projects are undertaken in ways that are sensitive to the environment. And, we have an opportunity to pursue developments that reflect and promote the natural link between the economy and the environment. These are the challenges of this strategy.

Who must face these challenges? Certainly government needs to respond by changing and improving the way it manages the territory's resources. It can also set the climate for sustainable development. But there is a role for businesses, for public interest groups, for communities, for the Yukon First Nations, and for individual Yukoners. The success of the Yukon Conservation Strategy depends on all of us. It is our chance to work together to ensure the future of the Yukon, its environment, and resources.

Definitions

In the Yukon Conservation Strategy:

Renewable resources are things like our trees, wildlife, and water.

Non-renewable resources are things like minerals, oil, and gas.

Conservation means the careful use, protection, and management of our natural and human heritage.

Conservation strategy means a comprehensive plan for the management of our natural and human heritage.

Sustainable development means using our natural resources to meet our economic, social, and cultural needs, but not depleting or degrading these resources so they cannot meet these same needs for future generations.

Why Develop a Conservation Strategy?

The fundamental purpose of the Yukon Conservation Strategy is to secure the economic and social well-being of the Yukon's residents through the wise use and management of the territory's natural resources.

But there are many other reasons for developing a conservation strategy. Here are some of them.

● A healthy environment

All living things depend on a healthy environment. Protecting the Yukon's environment will help sustain a ready supply of resources. It will also ensure the economic and physical well-being of Yukoners.

To protect the environment, we need to fully assess the environmental impacts of proposed development projects and design measures to reduce negative effects.

Laws, regulations, policies, and procedures are also needed to guard against the harmful effects of toxic and other hazardous materials on the environment.

As Yukoners we must also be concerned about the global environment. The Yukon Conservation Strategy can link our government, corporate, and individual actions to world-wide efforts to end and reverse deterioration of the environment.

● A stable non-renewable resource sector

Non-renewable resources, such as minerals, cannot last forever. But if we manage these resources for the long term, we can increase and sustain benefits for the Yukon and build a more stable non-renewable resource sector.

Government, in consultation with industry, can create new policies and programs that support the long-term development of the non-renewable resource sector and promote environmentally sound resource exploration and development.

● A strong tourism industry

The opportunity to experience our wilderness and share our wildlife brings many visitors to the Yukon.

The conservation of our renewable resources can support and promote a viable tourism industry.

● Healthy small businesses

Many small businesses in the Yukon, whether directly or indirectly, depend on a continuous supply of renewable resources. Wise management and careful use of these resources will provide a solid base for small business.

Conservation can lead to new business opportunities. It can create jobs. It can also help an existing business operate more efficiently, more cost effectively, and as a result, more competitively.

● Community development

The conservation of our natural resources and sustainable development can promote community and regional development in the Yukon. Community-based development projects can, for example, produce local jobs and training and educational opportunities.

The management of our natural resources can be undertaken in a way that complements community development. In particular, this involves consulting and working with Yukon communities when developing policies for our renewable resources and managing resource activities.

● Maintenance of culture and lifestyles

Maintaining traditional aboriginal cultures and lifestyles depends on a sure supply of resources on which these cultures and lifestyles are based.

The management of renewable resources can support traditional uses, values, and needs. This includes recognizing and using traditional knowledge and expertise in developing policies on renewable resources and managing development activities.

Many people make the Yukon their home because its resources, including its wilderness, offer lifestyles they want. The conservation of resources will mean choices for different lifestyles continue to be available.

● Protection of the Yukon's heritage resources

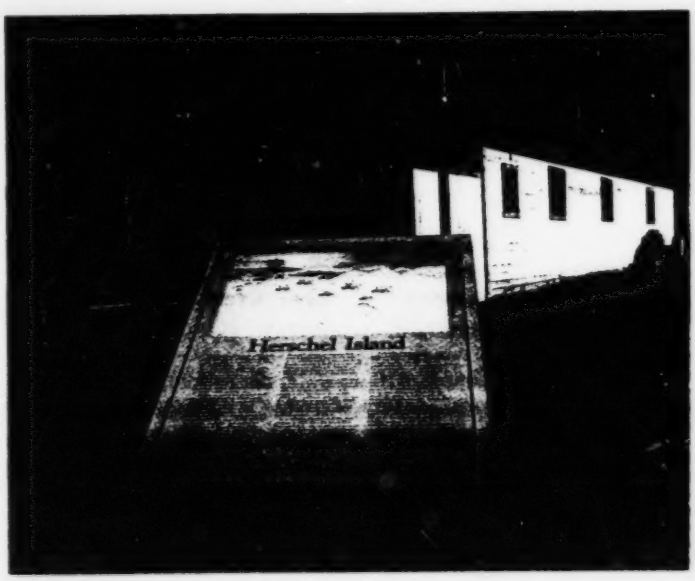
The preservation of representative samples of historic sites and buildings will help us maintain unbroken cultural and historical links with our past.

Just What is Sustainable Development?

For the purposes of the Yukon Conservation Strategy "sustainable development" has been defined as:

"using our natural resources in such a way that they meet our economic, social, and cultural needs, but not depleting or degrading these resources to the point that they cannot meet these needs for future generations"

Most of us have grown up in a society that has been promising. We have assumed our population and economy can continue to grow as if there are no limits. Nature itself is quickly challenging this assumption. We can't continue to think of "sustainable development" as simply a new form of economic growth. We have to examine every aspect of our economic activity, so we don't overuse our renewable resources and "develop" in a manner that pollutes and destroys the ecological life support system on which we depend.



What Principles Have Guided the Strategy's Development?

Several principles have guided the development of the Yukon Conservation Strategy. These are:

- **Conservation of our natural and human heritage**

The Yukon's renewable and non-renewable resources as well as its cultural and heritage resources are the subject of the Yukon Conservation Strategy.

The conservation strategy addresses the long-term management of all natural resources and the need to achieve the greatest sustainable benefits from our resources. It also recognizes the Yukon's rich cultural heritage and the need for careful protection and management of these resources. Both consumptive and non-consumptive use of resources is addressed in the strategy.

- **Cultural awareness and recognition**

The ideas and knowledge that both the aboriginal and non-native cultures have about the conservation of resources are recognized in the Yukon Conservation Strategy.

The different cultures in the Yukon sometimes bring different points of view to the management of our resources. The conservation strategy is aimed at encouraging greater understanding and acceptance of these differences. It is also designed to give different cultures a voice in decisions about how we use, manage, and protect the Yukon's resources.

- **Integration of our economy and environment**

Economic and environmental management go hand in hand.

The economy and the environment depend on each other. We need to protect our environment and the resources on which development depends if we are to sustain economic prosperity over the long term. We need a healthy environment in which to pursue our lives.

- **Recognition of non-monetary values**

The criteria for judging the value of a resource cannot all be expressed in monetary terms.

When we make decisions about our resources, there will be times when we have to consider the heritage or recreational value of a river, the value of a forest for future users, or the values derived from the simple existence of wilderness.

- **Preservation of our living resource "capital"**

Essential ecological processes and life-support systems will be maintained. The genetic diversity of plants, animals and habitat will be preserved.

Essential ecological processes are processes, such as the regeneration and recycling of nutrients, that are governed or supported by ecosystems. They are essential for food production, health, and other aspects of human survival.

Life support systems include such things as soil, forests, and freshwater systems.

Genetic diversity means the range of genetic material now found in the world's living things. Similarly, habitat diversity means the range of fish and wildlife habitat in existence.

● Individual responsibility

Each of us in the Yukon has a responsibility to conserve the resources of the territory.

By conserving our resources we can build a sustainable future for the Yukon. But to do this, we all, collectively and individually, must act.

Our responsibility extends beyond the present; we are caretakers of our resources for the generations that follow us.

● Informed decision making

Decision makers must recognize that life and sustained economic prosperity depend on the natural environment and the wise use of our natural resources.

This recognition carries with it a responsibility to be well-informed on environmental, conservation, and resource issues. It also means taking long term costs and benefits into account when making decisions.

● Importance of education

Education is the key to changing our approach from one of reacting to problems to one of anticipating consequences and actively planning economic development in an environmentally sound manner.

Education needs to take all forms. It should be geared to Yukon society as a whole. But, particular emphasis should be placed on our schools and our young people.

● Commitment to the global community

The Yukon has a role to play in the national and international community to ensure species and ecosystems are sustained.

Species and ecosystems are not confined by the boundaries of the Yukon. The Yukon must cooperate with national and international agencies to protect the environment and sustain its resources.

What Do We Want to Achieve from the Yukon Conservation Strategy?

A conservation strategy is a 'blueprint' or comprehensive plan for managing the environment and its resources. From this basic purpose, several objectives for the Yukon Conservation Strategy have been identified.

To provide for the **wise management of our resources**, the Yukon Conservation Strategy is aimed at achieving:

- **Sustainable use of our renewable resources**

Sustainable use means using our renewable resources in such a way that we have a continuous supply into the future. To achieve sustainable use, we need to know how much of a resource can be harvested or used on a regular basis without causing a decline in the quantity or quality of the resource. We also have to ensure that harvesting a particular resource does not have unacceptable effects on other resources.

- **Development of a range of renewable resource uses**

The Yukon has a diverse range of renewable resources. Sustainable development of these resources will produce economic activity to sustain our lives and a means of diversification that will promote a more stable economy.

- **A stable, healthy non-renewable resource sector**

The non-renewable resources sector is a prominent and important part of the Yukon economy. The resources on which it depends are finite. But we need to examine the sustainable aspects of non-renewable resource development to promote the long-term stability of this sector. Ultimately we should use the benefits from non-renewable resources to invest in a sustainable future.

- **Active, integrated management of our natural resources**

Our resources do not exist in isolation from each other. Developing or using one resource will often affect other resources. We have to consider and account for these links when managing resources. In other words, we have to recognize that our resources are part of an integrated natural system and manage them accordingly.

Not all resource uses are compatible. Where possible, we need to reduce incompatibilities and take advantage of compatibilities between resource uses. We also need to integrate the various uses of resources and land for the greatest long-term benefit.

To provide for the **wise management of our environment**, our objectives are:

- **Protection of a quality environment**

Protecting the environment is fundamental to sustainable development. We need to take active steps to protect its well-being when using resources.

- **Protection of our natural and human heritage**

The territory's natural and human heritage is important to both the Yukon First Nations and non-aboriginal Yukoners. Our diverse landscapes, wild rivers, archaeological and historic sites, and spectacular physical features require a systematic means of protection.

To support **our needs and values as Yukoners**, the Yukon Conservation Strategy is aimed at achieving:

- **Benefits and opportunities for Yukoners from the development and conservation of our natural resources**

Yukoners should obtain training and job opportunities as well as a fair share of the benefits derived from the conservation and development of our resources.

- **Community involvement in decision making about resource management**

Greater local involvement in resource issues will assist in managing and protecting resources. A voice in the development of resource policies and management practices can encourage community development.

- **Understanding of aboriginal resource management practices and knowledge**

Awareness and understanding of the differing cultural views about resources and their management can help broaden our knowledge of resources, particularly historical patterns of resource use and resource quantities. This knowledge can help us improve how we manage resources.

To help us recognize **our responsibilities for the conservation of resources**, the Yukon Conservation Strategy is aimed at achieving:

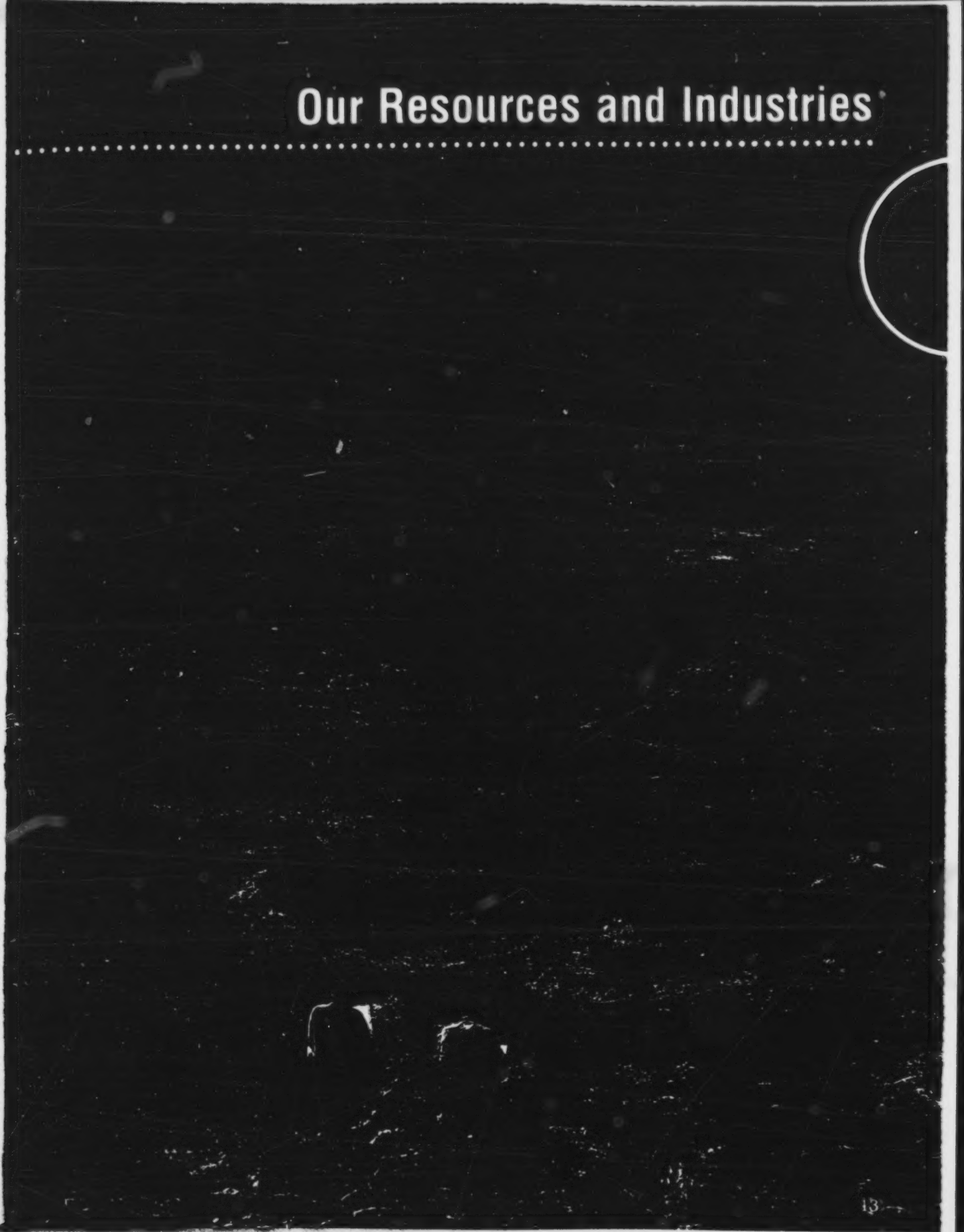
- **Public awareness and understanding of conservation principles**

The sustainable use and development of our resources depends on public understanding, acceptance, and support of conservation principles.

- **Public involvement and participation in conservation efforts**

Awareness and understanding are critical to successfully achieving sustainable use of our resources. But we must also learn to act on our knowledge. If we understand the consequences of resource use, we can recognize the limits on resources and adjust how we use them.

Our Resources and Industries



Our Resources and Industries

In this section of the Yukon Conservation Strategy, we are looking at our resources and industries and setting out what we need to do to achieve the strategy's objectives.

This examination of specific resource and economic sectors will assist government in making the changes needed to reach our goals. But we have to remember that our resources should also be viewed as an integrated whole.

This section will also help an angler, a miner, a tourist operator, or anyone involved with resources, whether renewable or non-renewable, to use the Yukon Conservation Strategy as a guide for his or her actions.

Assessing Development Projects

There are gaps in the way the territorial and federal governments assess the environmental, social and economic effects of development projects. These gaps have been recognized, and the two levels of government are now committed to improving the system. This commitment is also contained in the Umbrella Final Agreement for the Yukon Indian land claim.

The Development Assessment Process must be well organized to ensure that simple projects with only minor effects can be quickly and efficiently approved. It must also make sure that complex projects with significant or unknown environmental and socioeconomic effects are completely evaluated.

It is also important that the process not add to the administrative burden that government already places on the private sector. This means the new process should replace and simplify the existing system rather than complicate it.

The Development Assessment Process will be embodied in legislation and should be in place early in the 1990's.

Methods to Resolve Conflicts

There are basically two types of competition over resources: those dealing with whether or not we use a resource, such as land, for a certain purpose and those about how we use a resource once we have decided to use it.

We now have the Yukon Land Use Planning program to help us allocate resources, and local people will be involved in developing land use plans. We also have a commitment to prepare detailed district plans for more localized areas where there is more intense competition for land. Plans for the Hootalinqua North and Klondike Valley areas have already been completed. There have also been sectoral plans (e.g., Tourism Action Plan) created with local input and feedback that have successfully resolved questions about the allocation of resources.

We still need a systematic approach to resolving resource conflicts once the planning process is over. The Yukon government is committed to undertaking integrated resource management with the federal government and introducing a process to settle conflicts that can't be settled through the land use planning activities. This will include the creation of a Surface Rights Board to resolve issues of access to privately held lands. This commitment is contained in the Umbrella Final Agreement for the Yukon Indian land claim.

Wildlife and Habitats

Our wildlife is used and valued by Yukoners. The Yukon government has a responsibility to manage these resources and habitats on which they depend.

Wildlife

In managing our wildlife, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- manage wildlife for sustainable use
- manage wildlife for both consumptive (e.g. hunting) and non-consumptive (e.g. wildlife viewing) uses
- put emphasis on managing wildlife populations that are subject to disturbance by industrial development
- provide for the recovery of regionally depressed wildlife populations, such as marten, elk, muskoxen, woodland caribou, and moose
- provide for the recovery of populations that are now in decline
- protect and enhance threatened and endangered species
- improve legislative protection for threatened or endangered species of plants and animals
- provide more effective deterrents to abuses of wildlife laws
- complete the inventory and assessment of all the Yukon's wildlife populations
- integrate wildlife management activities with other renewable resource sectors
- implement cooperative wildlife management arrangements with the Yukon First Nations and other obligations under land claim agreements

- reduce incidents involving problem wildlife, particularly "garbage" bears, by introducing new policies and programs to deal with the management of solid waste
- expand wildlife management programs to include species currently not managed
- increase cooperation with Alaska, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories on ecosystem-based research projects
- examine the desirability of establishing no-hunting corridors along major highways

Wildlife habitat

To provide and protect suitable habitat for our wildlife, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- protect the genetic diversity of the Yukon's plants and animals and diversity of habitat
- manage important wildlife habitats to ensure there is no net loss of habitat
- provide legislative protection for important wildlife habitats
- restrict the use of motorized transportation in certain wildlife habitat and harvesting areas
- participate in implementing the federal policy on wetland conservation to protect the habitats of migratory waterfowl
- enter into cooperative agreements on habitat management with Ducks Unlimited, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and other relevant agencies.

Commercial Uses of Wildlife

Through the conservation of wilderness and wise use of wildlife resources, the Yukon can support renewable resource industries, such as trapping, guiding and outfitting.

Trapping

To protect and enhance the Yukon's trapping industry, *the government will:*

In Progress

- establish a policy for compensating trappers displaced from land under the Yukon government's control
- take steps to have this compensation policy applied to land under federal control and settlement lands
- provide support to reinforce the trapping lifestyle
- in cooperation with the industry, encourage the development and use of more effective and humane trapping methods
- assist in educating trappers about more effective, humane trapping methods, in cooperation with the industry

In the 1990's

- establish a land use management regime that allows for the continuation of the trapping industry
- promote public awareness and understanding of the trapping industry

Outfitting and Guiding

To assist the outfitting and guiding industry, *the government will:*

In Progress

- establish a policy to compensate outfitters displaced from land under the Yukon government's control
- take steps to have Crown land covered under this compensation policy until land is transferred to the Yukon government's control
- provide conservation and environmental training for guides

Protecting Our Trapping Industry

The trapping industry in the Yukon, as in other parts of Canada, is threatened by anti-fur groups. The Yukon government is continuing to take steps to protect the trapping lifestyle and its important ties to communities and culture.

- **Capital grants**

Capital grants are available to cover up to 25 percent of a trapper's grubstake.

- **Trap exchange**

Assistance is available for trappers to switch their standard leg-hold traps for modern, quick-kill traps.

- **Trapper workshops**

The government provides support to the Yukon Trappers Association to conduct workshops on humane trapping methods.

- **National support**

Support has been provided to the Fur Institute of Canada and Indigenous Survival International to assist with their international campaigns in defense of the fur industry.

- **Membership on the Fur Institute of Canada**

Through its membership, the Yukon assists in coordinating research and development on improved humane trapping methods and promoting their use.

Compensation for Trappers and Outfitters

Trapping and outfitting are traditional activities that provide a basis for the rural economy of the Yukon. Many native people, in particular, combine trapping with subsistence use of the wilderness for their livelihood. This reality is now accounted for when the effects of new land developments are reviewed.

As part of its effort to support the fur industry, the Yukon government has adopted a policy of compensating trappers and outfitters if new land uses are permitted to occur that negatively affect them. This policy is authorized under the Wildlife Act. A Concession and Compensation Review Board has been set up to recommend appropriate compensation when a trapper or outfitter suffers losses. The Board is made up of people with experience as trappers and outfitters.

To offset the costs of compensation, the Yukon government has adopted a "user-pay" approach. Land developers are charged a fixed fee in addition to the basic cost of the land. So far this policy applies only to developments on territorial land, but negotiations will begin to have federal land included within the policy.

● Non-consumptive Use of Wildlife

To encourage the non-consumptive use of wildlife, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- recognize the non-consumptive value of wildlife in management policies and programs
- develop an effective program of wildlife education, wildlife interpretation, and wildlife viewing for residents and non-residents
- protect and enhance wildlife to ensure viewing opportunities
- provide for appropriate controls on access to wildlife and other resources to avoid conflicts

● Game and Fur Farming

The wise development of game and fur farming in the Yukon supports the principles of the Yukon Conservation Strategy. Game farming can, for example, enhance depleted wildlife stocks and create employment.

To encourage the wise development of these industries, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- develop new regulations for fur and game farming
- ensure measures are in place to guard against disease and genetic contamination of wildlife
- establish guidelines for fencing land to protect wildlife
- regulate the location of game farms to reduce the negative impacts on indigenous species in the area

Fish and Our Fisheries

Conserving and enhancing our fisheries will ensure we have healthy stocks in the future for subsistence, domestic, recreational and commercial purposes.

Freshwater fishery

The Yukon government has acquired responsibility for managing the territory's freshwater fishery. To build a healthy freshwater fishery, *government will:*

In Progress

- provide for the conservative use of the fishery until inventories of fish habitats and stocks are completed
- develop management plans for areas where there are currently significant pressures on fish stocks

In the 1990's

- develop fisheries management plans that provide for conservation and enhancement of fish stocks and habitat
- develop a clearly defined policy for allocating the fish harvest
- inventory fish habitat and stocks for the biological information needed to manage the resource
- determine the life history of Yukon stocks to assist in managing the fishery
- prepare regional inventories with input from local residents
- carry out enhancement and stocking programs
- place appropriate controls on other industries to protect fish stocks and habitat
- support the continued implementation of policies and rules designed to protect fish and fish habitat in areas of placer mining activity
- develop opportunities and promote angling for less popular but more abundant species to help conserve lake trout

Salmon fishery

To protect our salmon fishery, *the government will work with the federal government and the Yukon River Commercial Fisheries Association to:*

In the 1990's

- continue negotiations with the United States on a fair distribution of the salmon harvest
- encourage on-going research into improved techniques to manage, protect and enhance salmon stocks and their habitat

The government will also:

- in conjunction with the federal government and Yukon First Nations, establish a salmon subcommittee of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board to recommend policies for managing salmon and salmon habitat
- continue to support national efforts to address concerns related to the high seas

Aquaculture

In developing an aquaculture industry, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- provide for Yukon control and management of aquaculture by negotiating an aquaculture agreement with the federal government
- provide regulations and policies for developing and managing the aquaculture industry
- promote the development of services, such as a fish disease diagnostic service, to support aquaculture

Public Involvement

To ensure Yukoners are knowledgeable about the state of our fishery, the government will:

In Progress

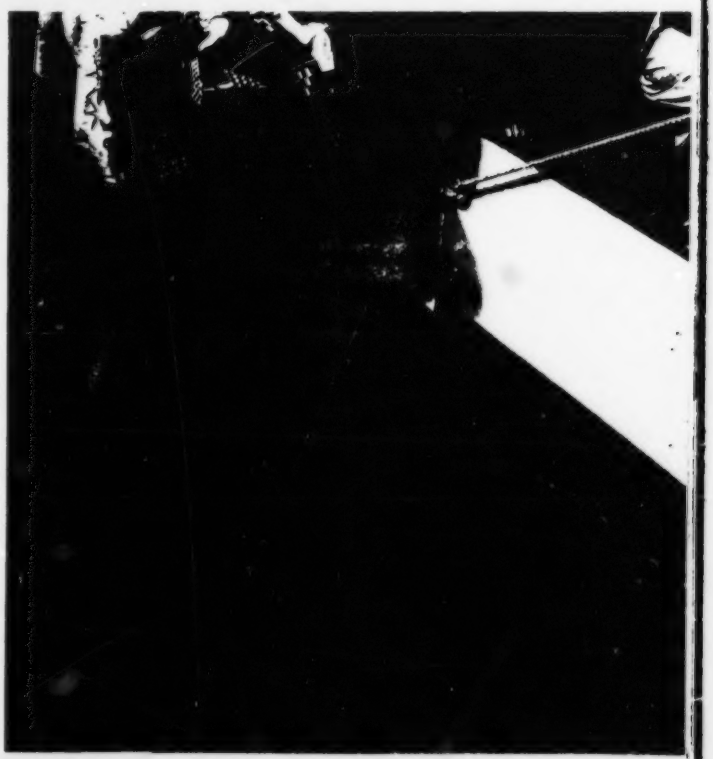
- develop public education programs that stress the need for managing the resource for the long term

To conserve our fish stocks, *individual Yukoners can:*

- fish in lakes where stocks are more plentiful
- within the legal limit, keep only those fish that will be eaten
- practice careful 'catch and release' techniques
- use a broader range of species

Public interest groups, such as the Yukon Fish and Game Association, can:

- continue to carry out fish stocking and enhancement projects
- conduct programs and activities designed to increase public awareness of the freshwater fishery



Subsistence

In the Yukon, subsistence use of wildlife and the natural environment is an important element of rural and aboriginal lifestyles. It is at the heart of Yukon Indian culture and remains fundamental to the well-being of all Yukon First Nations.

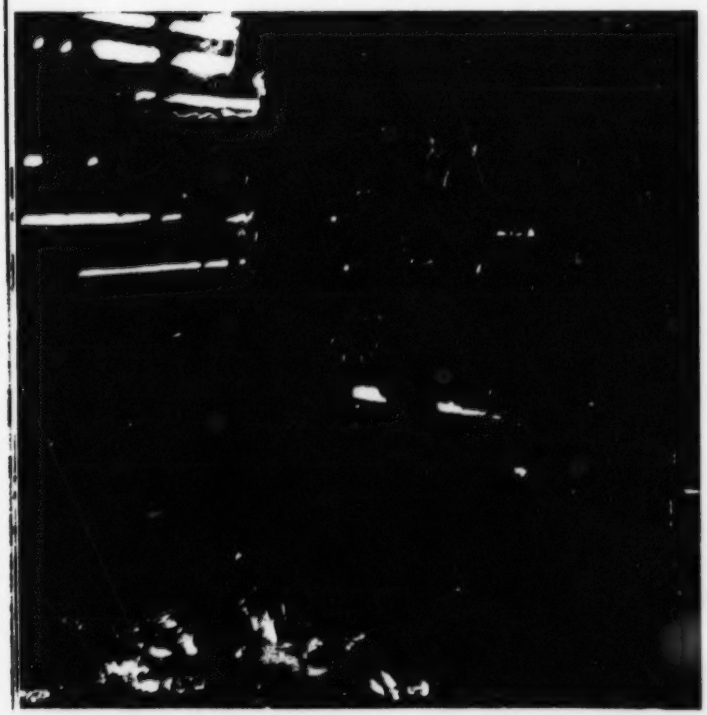
To protect and support the subsistence economy, *the government will:*

In Progress

- in consultation with the Yukon First Nations and rural residents, develop a "subsistence" policy
- conduct and support research with the Yukon First Nations to achieve a better understanding of what contribution the subsistence economy makes to the territory, to communities and to individual households

In the 1990's

- develop policies and programs that will protect opportunities for lifestyles based on the traditional use of renewable resources
- examine the feasibility of support programs for subsistence harvesters
- study and evaluate the use of traditional technologies, such as deadfalls, fish traps, and snaring
- provide greater protection for subsistence harvesting by designating areas where subsistence harvesting is recognized as an integral part of the ecosystem
- examine ways to minimize the impacts on subsistence harvesters from commercial resource users
- work with subsistence harvesters and elders to provide training and educational programs designed to pass on subsistence skills



Wilderness, Parks and Protected Areas

Vast areas of the Yukon are wilderness. This wilderness environment defines the character of the Yukon and serves several important economic, social, and cultural purposes. Protection of the wilderness environment defends these values.

There are several ways to protect our wilderness. We can fully protect some lands as parks and protected areas. But we can also look at other methods to ensure that activities on lands designated for multiple use do not significantly nor unnecessarily detract from the wilderness characteristics of the landscape.

● Wilderness

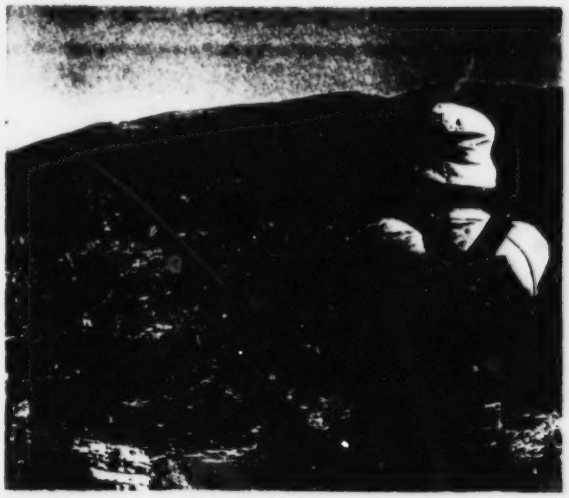
To provide for the protection of our wilderness, *the government will:*

In Progress

- prepare a wilderness policy that treats wilderness as a natural resource to be considered in:
  - the Yukon Land Use Planning Program,
  - decisions about land use permitting and licensing
  - all levels of environmental and socioeconomic assessment

In the 1990's

- complete the territorial parks system to protect important and spectacular wilderness areas of the Yukon
- evaluate and demonstrate the economic value of wilderness for our tourism industry
- recognize wilderness as a resource in resource legislation
- where possible, develop new techniques to assess the value of wilderness to the Yukon economy and way of life



How Do We Place a Value on Our Wilderness?

Most Yukoners recognize wilderness as a natural resource in its own right. Wilderness provides the essential character of this region. It provides a subsistence livelihood for many of the territory's aboriginal and rural peoples. It is the basis for much of our literature, fine art, and recreation. It forms a central theme for our tourist industry.

Despite the many benefits that come from the Yukon's wilderness, it is difficult to measure these benefits when we make decisions about conventional economic developments. We can do cost-benefit studies about our mines or our fisheries, but it is almost impossible to place a dollar value on wilderness.

Some would argue we shouldn't try. Perhaps it's good enough to formally recognize wilderness as a resource. We would then let the "push and pull" of public or political debates make the decisions about how important the wilderness is in any given decision that affects it. But many believe that such a passive approach is not enough. It is worth the effort to include wilderness "values" in our planning and assessment of projects.

The Yukon government is committed to treating the wilderness as a resource in its own right. It will look at ways we can appropriately measure the value of our wilderness.

Getting the Most from Our National Parks

In recent years there's been a lot of discussion about access to, and development in, Kluane National Park Reserve. There seems to be more agreement about these issues than in the past. But concerns remain that we need to do more to maximize the economic benefits that should come from having such a magnificent national park in the Yukon.

For well over ten years the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has been promoting an approach to cooperative park management that the Yukon government thinks will work in the Kluane region. The concept is known as *biosphere reserve*. It involves treating the protected area — in our case, Kluane — as part of a larger land management area, rather than as an area isolated from its surroundings.

A biosphere reserve designation for Kluane region would involve establishing a management committee to advise the various governments on ways in which the lands around the park can be administered as a "zone of cooperation." Economic development and research activities related to the park can be fostered in this zone of cooperation. In this way the basic ecological and conservation values that led to the creation of the park can be protected while compatible economic opportunities are encouraged and enhanced.

The Yukon government has recommended this approach for the Kluane region to the Canadian Parks Service. We also know that Alaskan agencies are interested in the possibility of cooperating on transboundary biosphere reserves in the Kluane-St. Elias-Glacier Bay area and between the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Northern Yukon National Park.

● Parks and Protected Areas

Through a system of parks and protected areas in the Yukon, *the government will:*

In Progress

- implement the parks and outdoor recreation policy
- use the information gathered in inventories of the territory's natural features to develop plans for selecting potential areas for territorial parks
- ensure each individual park proposal includes an analysis of the renewable and non-renewable resource users that may be affected by the park designation
- provide for full public participation in planning and managing each park
- work with the Canadian Parks Service and communities along the north Alaska Highway to establish a biosphere reserve for the Kluane region

In the 1990's

- analyse and demonstrate the economic opportunities available from a parks system, particularly for community employment and private business
- complete the territorial parks system to protect the most important and spectacular wilderness areas of the Yukon
- work cooperatively with First Nations to address the protection of cultural heritage and interpretation interests in territorial parks
- implement the ecological reserves portion of the Parks Act to complement the protected habitats portion of the Wildlife Act
- with the federal government and the Inuvialuit, examine the potential for a national marine park off the Yukon's north coast
- work with the federal government to nominate and designate appropriate Yukon rivers as part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System

Outdoor Recreation

To encourage recreational use of our wilderness environment, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- use the information collected in inventories of the Yukon's recreational features to complete plans for selecting potential outdoor recreation areas
- develop a system of trails and river corridors for summer and winter recreation
- promote other recreational opportunities
- support the establishment of facilities for outdoor recreation that are compatible with the wilderness environment

Yukoners can protect our park, recreational, and wilderness areas by:

- camping and hiking in a manner that creates the least possible disturbance of areas they use
- removing all evidence of campfires
- carrying out litter and disposing of it properly

A Legacy for Our Future

Two groups — the World Wildlife Fund and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society — have launched a campaign to protect Canada's "endangered spaces." They are calling on Canadians to adopt a **Canadian Wilderness Charter** with the following objectives:

That governments, industries, environmental groups and individual Canadians commit themselves to a national effort to establish at least one representative protected area in each of the natural regions of Canada by the year 2000,

That the total area thereby protected comprise at least 12 per cent of the lands and waters of Canada,

That public and private agencies at international, national, provincial, territorial and local levels rigorously monitor progress toward meeting these goals in Canada and ensure that they are fully achieved, and

That federal, provincial and territorial government agencies on behalf of all Canadians develop action plans by 1990 for achieving these goals by the year 2000.

The Yukon government will work towards achieving these goals through the completion of a territorial parks system and other types of protected areas.

Tourism

Many visitors come to the Yukon to experience our wilderness, view our wildlife, and learn more about our culture and heritage. The continuation and expansion of this important industry is tied to conserving the resources that can attract tourists to the Yukon.

Tourism development

To provide new attractions for visitors to the Yukon, *the government will work with the tourism industry to:*

In the 1990's

- develop a range of opportunities to view and interpret wildlife, both in the backcountry and along territorial highways
- provide interpretative programs to inform our tourists about the Yukon's wilderness and wildlife
- educate tourists about the use and management of our resources and their value for lifestyles
- develop opportunities that will encourage our visitors to participate in wilderness experiences and learn about aboriginal culture, lifestyles, and traditions
- promote fishing in areas where there are more fish stocks
- develop trails and other recreational opportunities to allow our visitors to experience the wilderness

Tourism marketing

In marketing the Yukon and its attractions, *the government will:*

- reflect the positive aspects of conservation of our resources in marketing and advertising
- promote the Yukon as an "environmentally aware" territory, so our visitors understand that Yukoners care about the environment and its resources
- promote opportunities to experience and learn about our conservation efforts
- encourage our visitors to participate in our conservation efforts while in the territory

Education and training

The government will:

In the 1990's

- provide environmental/conservation training for people interested or involved in the tourism industry

Water

The Yukon's water resources are valuable for many reasons. Water is part of our landscape and habitat for fish and many animals. We also use water in a range of economic activities. It is therefore essential that we allocate and manage water resources as a critical element of the natural environment.

Water Management

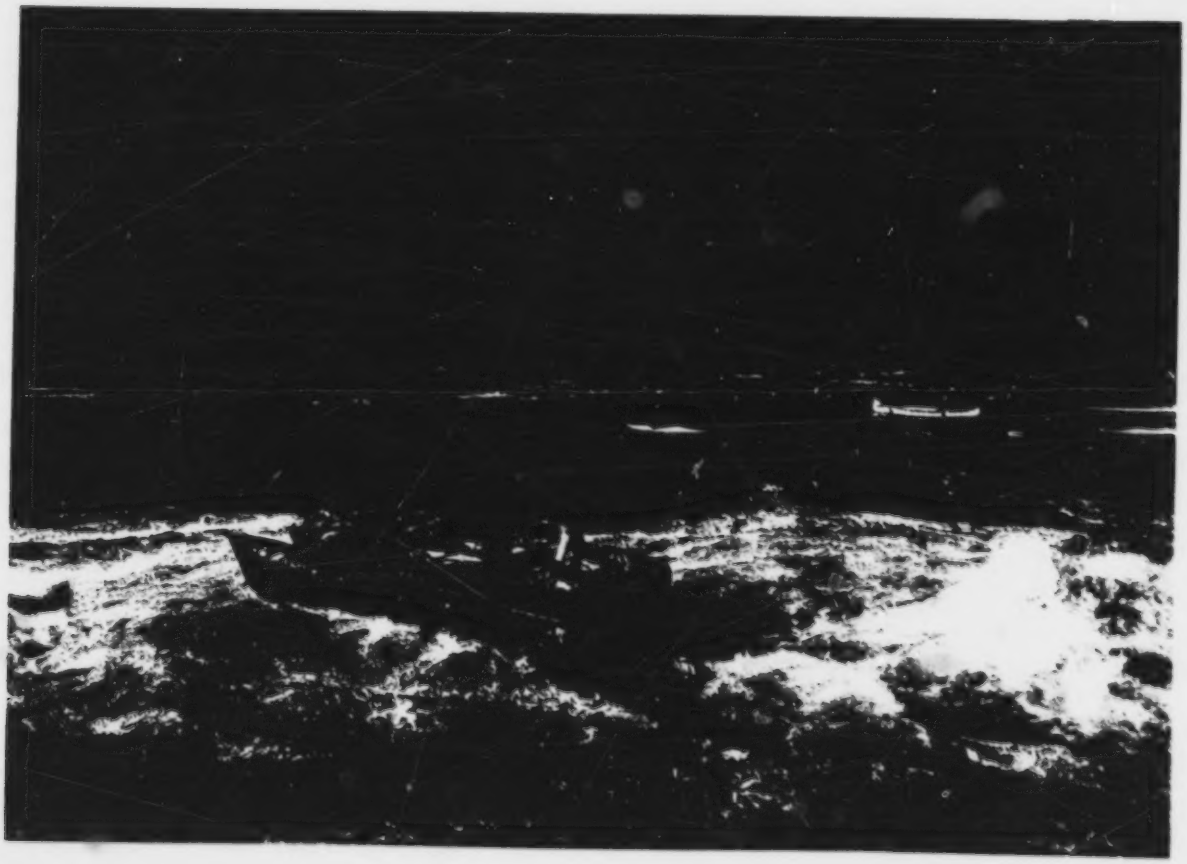
To manage the water resources of the Yukon, *the government will work with the federal government to:*

In Progress

- negotiate river basin agreements aimed at improving our knowledge and management of transboundary water resources
- increase Yukon involvement in federal water management programs and projects
- work with the federal government to reform legislation governing Yukon waters

In the 1990's

- work with the federal government to transfer the responsibility for water resources to the Yukon government
- develop resource management plans that integrate water, land, forest and other resources
- ensure non-consumptive water uses are fairly accounted for in water management and planning
- negotiate and implement the water management subagreement of land claims
- continue to oppose river diversions for water exports



Industrial Use

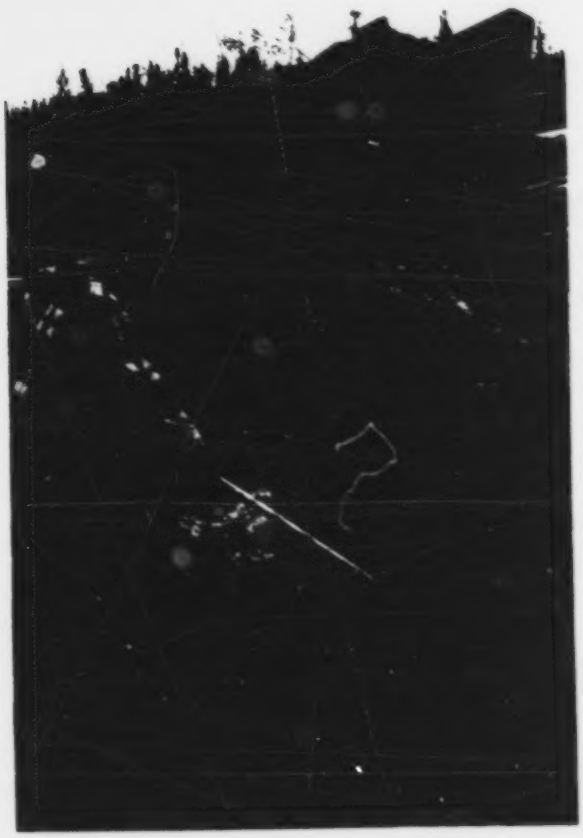
To promote the wise use of water resources by industry, *the government will:*

In Progress

- continue to support implementation of the placer mining/water effluent guidelines and support the work of the Placer Implementation Review Committee

In the 1990's

- support technological advances in the placer mining industry to reduce the need for large quantities of water
- work with the federal government to improve monitoring and enforcement of license requirements set by the Yukon Territory Water Board



Residential Use

To conserve our water resources, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- increase public awareness of methods for reducing excessive use of water

Individuals can:

- reduce their water use through mechanical devices that restrict water flow in shower heads and toilets

Our Arctic Coast

The Yukon's north coast is experiencing new uses and new development pressures. Tourism is on the increase as a result of the creation of the Northern Yukon National Park and the Herschel Island Territorial Park. National defence facilities are being redeveloped. There's also an ongoing possibility of oil and gas developments in the western Beaufort Sea and a port on the Yukon coast.

The Yukon and federal governments are committed to completing a regional land use plan for the northern Yukon. There's also a commitment by both governments to a Northern Accord. It will establish a regulatory regime for managing oil and gas development and ensure Yukoners participate in, and benefit from, this development. Inherent in both these programs is the need for a detailed plan to manage our coastal region.

The development of a coastal zone management plan is a long-term goal, which will be advanced through the land use planning process. We'll work with appropriate federal and Inuvialuit agencies to ensure that effective contingency plans are in place for environmental emergencies.

It is important that the policy and plans that become part of a coastal zone management plan serve to link the principles, objectives and regional priorities of the Arctic Marine Conservation Strategy with those of the Yukon Conservation Strategy.

Forests and Forestry

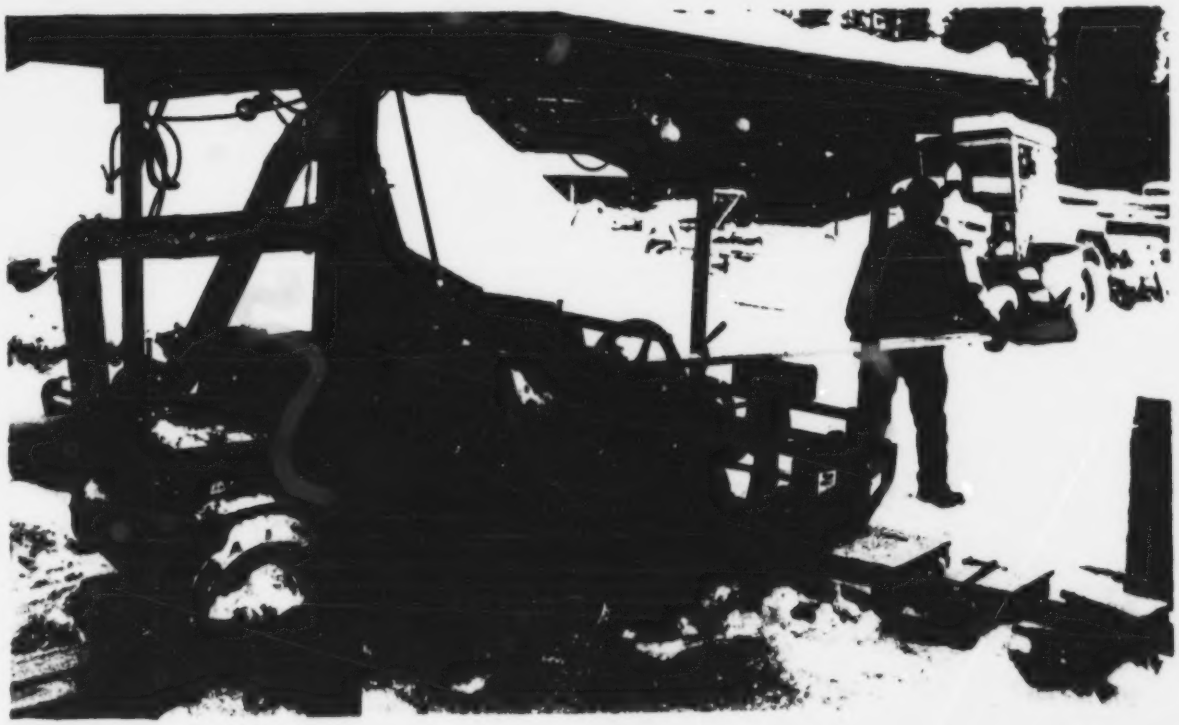
It takes a long time for trees to grow in the Yukon. We have to account for this slow rate of regeneration in building a sustainable forest industry.

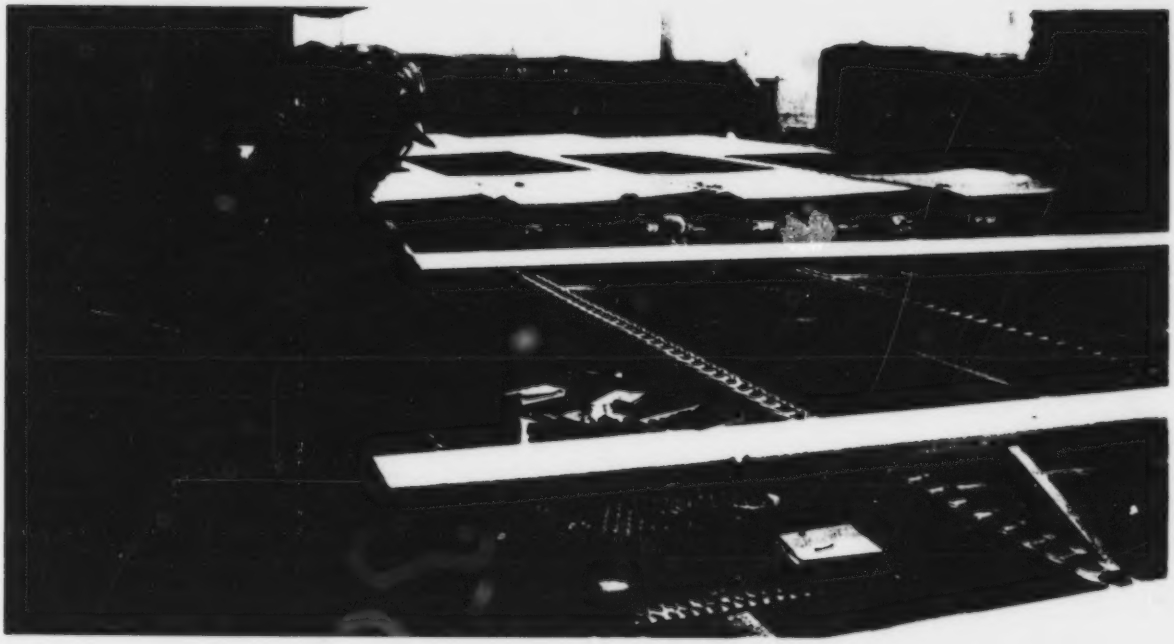
Management and Development

In managing and developing the forest resources of the Yukon, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- in cooperation with the federal government, continue to ensure that forests are inventoried in order to have the best possible information with which to manage the resource
- work to acquire responsibility for forest management and develop comprehensive forestry legislation
- establish conservation and sustainable use of the resource as underlying principles of forestry legislation, programs and policies
- consult the forest industry and forest users during the preparation and development of legislation
- develop a reforestation program that recognizes the need to preserve genetic diversity
- encourage the use of appropriate silviculture practices designed to improve the quantity and quality of trees and to reduce the time it takes to regenerate forests
- encourage selective harvesting of trees and use clear cutting only where appropriate
- provide for the best possible use of the harvested resource through the development of processing capabilities in the Yukon, and the reduction and possible use of waste products
- encourage processing of forest products in the Yukon to ensure maximum employment and income
- restrict whole log exports
- consider the impacts of logging on other resource users
- where feasible, provide for community-based development of forest resources
- provide for multiple use of forest lands whenever possible
- where appropriate, compensate resource users displaced by forestry development projects
- encourage the use of local forest products





The industry can:

- actively carry out reforestation projects
- implement environmental codes of practice, operating guidelines and standards for forest operations
- respect other uses and users of forests
- implement measures that will mitigate and/or compensate for the impacts of forest development on other resources

● Research and Technology

To assist in the development of a viable forest industry in the Yukon, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- provide funding for research and technological improvements aimed at conserving the resource
- support research into appropriate silviculture practices that will reduce the regeneration period
- support the development of innovative harvesting techniques that enhance opportunities for sustainable development
- support research into rehabilitating burn areas
- examine the possibility of prescribed burning to enhance the management of wildlife habitat

The industry can:

- develop harvesting techniques appropriate to the Yukon and northern conditions
- promote and undertake research into silviculture practices appropriate for Yukon conditions
- conduct research into the rehabilitation of burn areas

● Public Involvement

Public awareness and understanding of our forest resources can assist in the development of a sustainable industry. To promote this, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- establish mechanisms for effective public participation in the planning of forestry developments
- educate the public on the wise use of our forests
- educate the public on the beneficial uses of forest fires as well as their dangers and methods of prevention

Environmental Principles and Policies for Industry

In its 1987 report, Canada's National Task Force on Environment and Economy called on government and industry to develop and take on new responsibilities for integrating our environment with economic activity.

To encourage leadership by Canadian industry, it suggested that industries and companies in this country develop their own internal goals and standards of environmental performance. One means to achieve this would be to adopt and implement environmental principles and policy guidelines.

Several industry associations and individual companies have acted on this suggestion. The Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, for one, has endorsed an environmental statement for the pulp and paper industry in this country. The statement acknowledges the important responsibilities the industry shares with Canadians for the environment in which we all live and work. It recognizes that the care of, and responsibility for, our environment is what makes long-term economic development possible.

Companies that belong to the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association have endorsed seven principles that are to govern how they think about the environment and how they act on their environmental responsibilities.

- The companies commit themselves to excellence in sustained yield forestry and environmental management and will conduct their business in a responsible manner designed to protect the environment and the health and safety of employees, customers, and the public.
- The companies will assess, plan, construct, and operate facilities in compliance with all applicable regulations.
- Forest resources will be managed and protected for multiple use and sustained yield.
- Beyond, or in absence of, regulatory requirements, the companies will apply sound management practices to advance environmental protection and minimize environmental impact.
- The companies will promote environmental awareness among employees and the public and train employees in their environmental responsibilities.
- The industry will work with governments in the development of regulations and standards based on sound, economically achievable technologies and the analysis of environmental impact.
- The industry will continue to advance the frontiers of knowledge in environmental protection through the support of scientific research and, as appropriate, apply such knowledge at its facilities.

Similar policies have been adopted by the mining and petroleum industry in Canada. These are outlined in relevant sections of the strategy.

Soils and Agriculture

Conservation in agriculture can help to ensure the development of an industry that is self-sufficient and sustainable.

● Agricultural land

In making land available for agriculture, *the government will:*

In Progress

- complete and implement an agricultural policy
- identify lands available for agriculture based on defined criteria that address:
  - agricultural capability
  - competing uses
  - protection of fish and wildlife and their habitat
  - protection of air, land and water quality
  - historical resources

In the 1990's

- develop agricultural areas that are compatible with other resource uses
- balance the amount of land available for agriculture with the need for land for other uses, such as trapping, forestry and subsistence harvesting

● Soil conservation

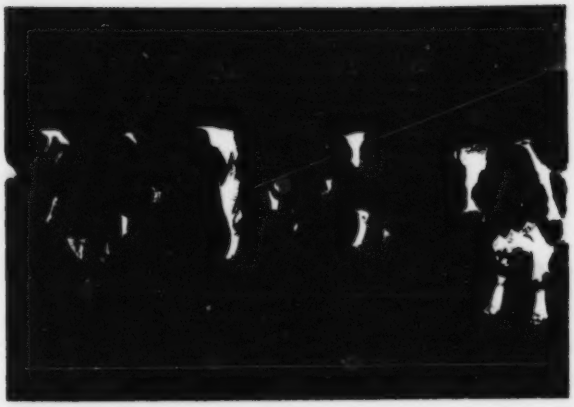
To provide for sustainable agricultural operations, *farmers can:*

- use planning techniques that promote the sustainable use of the land
- incorporate conservation practices, such as plough-downs, into their farm management plans
- practice sound soil conservation measures, such as crop rotation
- use alternatives to fertilizers and pesticides, such as manure and proper tillage methods

To assist in building a sustainable industry, *the government will:*

In Progress

- where appropriate, include conservation measures in grazing leases and agreements for sale
- enact legislation to control the use of pesticides and herbicides
- conduct demonstration projects on soil conservation, including research into overcoming problems with saline soils



● Water use

To protect the quality and quantity of water in streams, lakes and rivers encompassed by agricultural land, *the government will work with the federal government to:*

- establish measures to protect water quality from the negative effects of livestock use of streams and possible contamination by chemicals in fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides

● Research and Technology

The government will carry out or support projects that:

- adapt suitable agricultural technologies for use in the Yukon
- develop new greenhouse techniques and technologies appropriate to the Yukon
- study the effects of pesticides and herbicides on northern soils

● Support for Agriculture

The government will continue to provide support to the agricultural industry in the form of:

- extension courses and other educational opportunities designed to improve conservation efforts
- new crop development programs tied to conservation

Soil Conservation

A decline in the quality and productivity of agricultural soils is a serious problem in Canada today. The Yukon is fortunate. We still have the opportunity to manage our land, soil, and water properly and guarantee that our farms remain productive and sustainable.

Yukon farmers can incorporate conservation measures into their agricultural operations. These include:

- the proper use of shelterbelts
- windbreaks
- strip and contour farming
- crop rotations
- green manuring
- proper drainage
- conservation tillage systems
- forage establishment on marginal lands

The Agriculture Branch of the Yukon's Department of Renewable Resources is available to assist farmers with these conservation measures. The Branch is also doing practical research into the best crops for crop rotation and green manuring. The results of this research will be passed on to Yukon farmers.

Yukon farmers will also benefit from a national soil conservation program. It will make a total of $75 million available across Canada in the next three years for soil conservation, soil erosion, irrigation, drainage and salinity. The Yukon and federal governments have signed an agreement under this national program. Both governments will provide equal funding to increase opportunities for diversification with special crops, forage, and livestock production.

The Yukon is in a unique position to prevent soil erosion through the introduction of good soil conservation practices. The Yukon government is gearing its policies, programs, and extension services towards conserving our agricultural land and building a sustainable industry. With the cooperation of the agricultural community we can avoid the problems others are now facing.

Energy and Energy Conservation

Our present reliance on fossil fuels contributes to pollution, the "greenhouse effect", and the depletion of non-renewable resources. We can reduce our use of energy through conservation and by relying more on renewable sources of energy.

Energy policy

To assist in determining the Yukon's energy needs and how they are best met, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

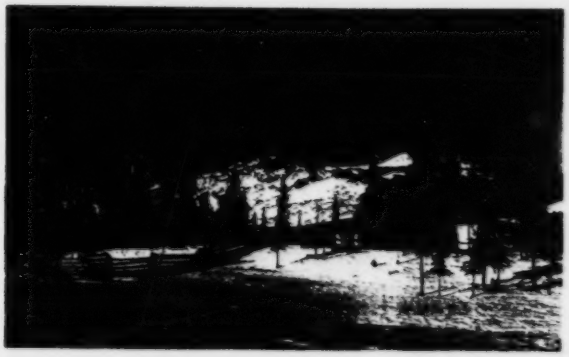
- develop a Yukon energy policy
- identify potential energy sources, including renewable sources, and the advantages and disadvantages of their development

Hydroelectric power

When new hydroelectric projects are proposed for the Yukon, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- encourage micro hydro projects where environmentally sound and feasible to do so
- consider the use of instream power generation in appropriate circumstances
- investigate new techniques and technologies that improve the efficiency and lessen the impacts of hydroelectric generated power
- ensure that hydroelectric projects are the most cost effective, environmentally sound long-term solution for our energy needs
- assess the immediate and long-term environmental and socioeconomic impacts of all hydroelectric projects



- assess the cumulative effect of micro hydro projects unless there are specific reasons related to the site of the proposed development for an individual assessment
- ensure there is appropriate compensation for resource users displaced by hydroelectric developments

Alternate energy sources

To displace the use of fossil fuels and lessen the Yukon's dependence on imported energy, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- encourage, through pilot projects and studies:
  - the development of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power where technically and economically feasible
  - the use of energy based on locally available sources, such as wood or coal, where they do not significantly contribute to pollution
  - the use of efficient combustion furnace or appliance
  - waste heat recovery projects
- continue to upgrade equipment to reduce the use of diesel in the Yukon
- assess the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of energy developments and provide measures to mitigate negative effects
- ensure that energy support programs are provided only to environmentally sound energy developments

The government will encourage industry to:

- practice selective logging for firewood that will reduce forest fire danger
- upgrade equipment to reduce the use of diesel fuel

Energy Use

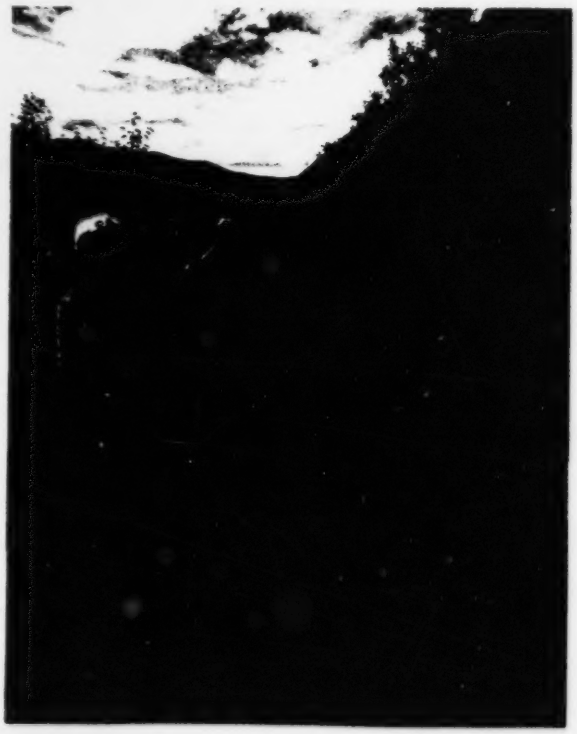
To conserve our use of energy, *the government will:*

In Progress

- make available programs and materials that promote energy conservation
- promote better building techniques and standards to improve energy efficiency
- promote the use of the most energy efficient equipment

Individuals can:

- decrease gasoline consumption by driving less and at lower speeds and by not idling cars
- tune up cars regularly, so they run efficiently
- set up car pools or use public transit
- institute energy saving techniques and practices at home
- when purchasing new appliances, look for the most energy efficient models and the smallest size for your needs
- properly maintain furnaces and wood stoves, so they are safe and efficient



● Oil and gas development

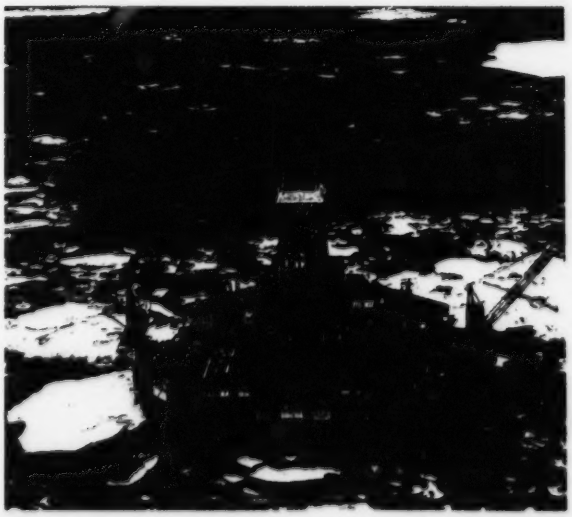
To ensure oil and gas development in the Yukon is carried out in an environmentally sound manner, *the government will work with the federal government to:*

In Progress

- negotiate a Northern Accord and oil and gas legislation that specifies the precise benefits to be retained by Yukoners
- provide clear environmental protection laws and standards for the industry
- apply the development assessment process to the oil and gas sector

In the 1990's

- ensure that approaches to oil and gas leasing occur in a manner that recognizes the rights and privileges of other resource users
- ensure that pipelines that originate in, or pass through, the Yukon are constructed in an environmentally sound manner
- promote the routing of pipelines along existing transportation corridors in a manner that ensures environmental protection and employment and economic benefits to community residents
- provide an effective means of resolving conflicts among resource users
- establish clear obligations for compensating other resource users displaced by oil and gas developments



An Environmental Code of Practice for the Oil and Gas Industry

As other major industry associations in this country have done, the Canadian Petroleum Association has developed an environmental code of practice for its 70 member companies. Operating guidelines have also been prepared to assist those working in the field to implement the code.

The Association's code commits oil and gas companies to protecting the environment and maintaining public health and safety during all phases of their operations. The six principles that follow are intended to guide companies' actions in meeting this commitment.

- **Planning**

Companies will assess the potential effects of their projects and will integrate protective measures into the planning process to prevent or reduce impacts upon the environment and on public health and safety.

- **Consultation**

Companies will provide relevant information in a timely fashion to the public and to governments with respect to corporate policies and activities and be responsive and sensitive to community concerns.

- **Compliance**

Companies will comply with applicable laws and regulations and will adhere to the intent of industry guidelines.

- **Corrective Action**

Environmental damage caused by company activities will be corrected in a timely and efficient manner.

- **Emergency response**

Companies will implement programs to minimize the consequences of emergency events by ensuring prompt and effective response.

- **Research**

Companies will encourage and support research relevant to improving industry's ability to protect the environment and maintain public health and safety.

Minerals, Exploration and Mining

Hardrock and placer mining and exploration are mainstays of the Yukon economy. We want to foster the stable operation of this industry as a key element of a healthy non-renewable resource economy. We also want to use the benefits from this sector to invest in a sustainable future after our principal non-renewable resources are exhausted.

● Legislation and Regulations

To provide the exploration and mining industry with a stable regulatory environment in which to operate, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- work with the federal government to reform the Quartz and Placer Mining Acts in accordance with the Northern Mineral Policy
- work with the federal government on streamlining the administration of licensing and permitting for mining activities
- in cooperation with the federal government, provide for clear and direct environmental protection measures, replacing the indirect methods now used
- ensure that all legislative and regulatory changes are done in a manner that is open and allows all resource users a role

● Land Use and Environmental Protection

To encourage environmentally sound exploration and mining and fair decision making about the use of land in the Yukon, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- complete major land allocation processes, such as land claims and land use planning, to provide the industry with certainty about land use
- ensure that the mineral resources of an area are considered before land is allocated to other uses
- develop selective methods of protecting land, water and other resources that do not always require full land withdrawals to be effective
- implement a development assessment process to ensure that environmental impacts associated with mining projects are evaluated and minimized
- fund demonstration projects that examine innovative environmental protection methods
- establish mechanisms, such as the Surface Rights Board, to resolve conflicts over land use on privately held lands

Lands Withdrawn from Mining

Over the years, there has been an ongoing debate about the amount of land withdrawn from mineral exploration and potential mine development. What really matters however is not the total amount of land withdrawn, but the resource values at stake in each case. In some cases there are legitimate and important reasons to protect land from industrial uses, such as mining. By the same token, we know of many areas with very high potential for mineral discoveries where other resource values are relatively low.

The Yukon government makes two basic commitments about future land withdrawals. We will work with all interest groups to find innovative ways to protect wildlife and other renewable resources, while still allowing mineral exploration to occur. When a land withdrawal is proposed that would limit mining, this will be done with full public consultation and will involve an evaluation of the resources in the area.

The industry can:

- develop and implement environmental codes of practice and operating guidelines
- participate in planning exercises to ensure fair consideration of non-renewable resource issues and wise use of all resources
- participate in demonstration projects on environmentally sound mineral exploration, development and extraction
- work with government and interest groups to improve public awareness of the requirements and realities of the mining industry and the new environmental protection techniques that emerge in the next few years

Water Use and Environmental Protection

To encourage wise use of water resources in the mining industry, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

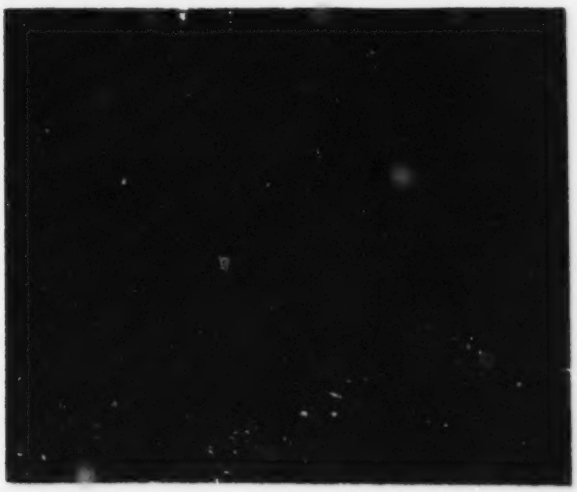
- continue to support implementation of federal water use policies for the placer mining industry
- support technological advances in the placer mining industry to reduce the need for large quantities of water
- work with the federal government to ensure license requirements of the Yukon Territory Water Board are more effectively monitored and enforced

Reclamation

The government will work with the federal government to:

In the 1990's

- establish well defined, site specific approaches for effective clean-up and reclamation of depleted or abandoned mining sites
- provide for public input into the clean-up and reclamation process that is established
- explore financial incentive schemes for reclamation



● Infrastructure

To ensure the best use of infrastructure developed for the mining industry, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- assist in planning access to potential mineral deposits in consultation with the mining industry and other resource users
- encourage the development of environmentally sound designs for mines and mining infrastructure that reduce negative impacts of development
- where appropriate, design government-funded roads for multiple use or for other uses after they are no longer needed by the mining industry
- promote planned community expansion that allows for alternate use of facilities in the event of mine closures
- promote local hire from established Yukon communities rather than encourage the development of new single industry townsites

● Research and Technology

To continue work on improved mining techniques and geological mapping, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- conduct and support research into methods of reducing the environmental impacts of mining
- develop economic incentives for industry participation in environmental protection projects

Industry can:

- design mining plans that demonstrate the economic savings of effective, environmentally safe recovery techniques

Environmental Policy of the Mining Association of Canada

Member companies of the Mining Association of Canada are committed to balancing care and responsibility for the protection of human health and the natural environment with the need for economic growth.

For the Association this means applying measures that are technically proven and economically feasible to protect the environment throughout all phases of the industry's activities — exploration, mining, processing, and decommissioning.

To implement this environmental policy, the member companies of the Mining Association of Canada have stated they will:

- assess, plan, construct, and operate their facilities in compliance with all applicable legislation providing for the protection of the environment, employees and the public;
- in the absence of legislation, apply cost-effective best management practices to advance environmental protection and to minimize environmental risks;
- maintain an active, continuing, self-monitoring program to ensure compliance with government and company requirements;
- foster research directed at expanding scientific knowledge of the impact of industry's activities on the environment, of environment/economy linkages, and of improved treatment technologies;
- work proactively with government and the public in the development of equitable, cost-effective and realistic laws for the protection of the environment; and
- enhance communications and understanding with governments, employees and the public.

The Yukon government applauds the adoption and implementation of this policy by the Yukon Chamber of Mines, the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, and the Yukon Mine Operators' Association.

Transportation

Our highways and roads often provide access to economic development opportunities. We need to locate and construct roads and provide other forms of access that are compatible with our conservation objectives.

Road planning and design

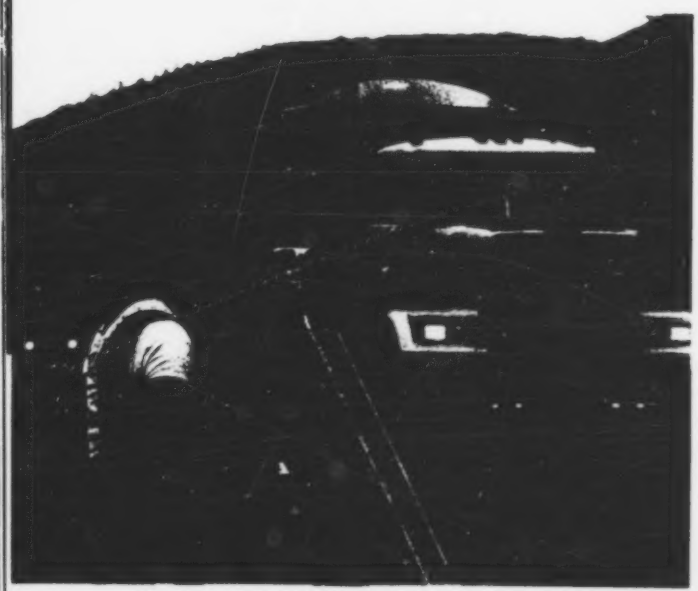
In planning and designing roads in the Yukon, *the government will:*

In Progress

- ensure all affected parties are consulted during the routing, planning and design of new roads and the upgrading of existing roads
- take environmental, recreational, and aesthetic as well as economic considerations into account in decisions on the need, location, and design of roads
- where appropriate, design roads for an optimum mix of uses

In the 1990's

- make use of regional land use plans to determine the location of roads
- review new road projects through the development assessment process



Road construction

When building new roads, *the government will:*

In Progress

- involve all sectors in the consideration of road design, construction and access
- consider the effects of road construction on wilderness areas

In the 1990's

- establish a process to resolve conflicts between road construction and other users and values
- encourage the construction of winter roads, where appropriate, as alternatives to all-weather roads

Transportation corridors

To ensure transportation corridors are compatible with conservation interests, *the government will:*

In Progress

- continue to develop regional transportation strategies to provide for regional, rather than project-by-project, planning of roads
- rewrite the Highways Act to allow for the classification and closing of roads for environmental or conservation reasons

In the 1990's

- clean up existing gravel pits along highways and roads

Other forms of transportation

The government will:

In the 1990's

- continue to provide subsidies to encourage other forms of access, such as air
- examine potential environmental problems associated with other forms of transportation, such as refuelling at float plane bases, and develop alternatives, where appropriate
- explore possible ways of regulating use of all-terrain vehicles where their use conflicts with wilderness and wildlife interests

Housing and Building Construction

There are many aspects of the construction industry that affect or are affected by conservation work in the Yukon.

● Building products and energy conservation

To promote conservation in the construction industry, *government and groups such as the Yukon Home Builders Association can:*

In the 1990's

- build public awareness of energy conservation principles
- promote the continued development of new energy conserving building techniques, such as the R2000 program
- promote the use of "environmentally friendly" building products as they become available
- continue loan programs for energy efficient housing retrofits

● Environmental protection

To help reduce the environmental impacts of new housing and buildings, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- provide appropriate regulation of air and water quality in subdivisions and industrial areas
- educate the public about the effects of housing and industrial developments on air and water quality
- monitor and keep the public informed about indoor air quality issues and problems

Manufacturing and Service Industries

Conservation can create business and marketing opportunities for the manufacturing and service sectors of our economy.

Business opportunities

To promote the development of new businesses, *the government will:*

In Progress

- encourage new businesses devoted to recycling

In the 1990's

- explore the establishment of incentives for developing ideas, products, and expertise related to conservation and environmental protection
- assist in promoting conservation products and expertise through opportunities such as trade fairs

Marketing opportunities

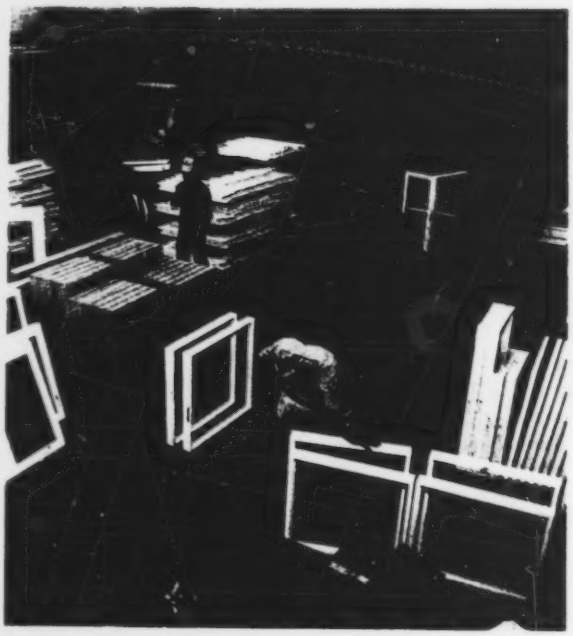
To assist with marketing new businesses and new business approaches, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- encourage businesses to use conservation practices in marketing their products or business
- assist in organizing a marketing system for conservation-minded businesses
- support the federal "environmentally friendly" logo to assist consumers in purchasing decisions

Individuals can:

- support and invest in businesses that promote conservation
- look for and purchase "environmentally friendly" products



Conservation: A Business Opportunity

Conservation is an expanding field that can promote new business ideas and opportunities and create jobs. Here is a list of business ideas that could be looked at:

- sample testing laboratory for environmental assessment and monitoring
- oil cleaning processes
- industrial plants that grind glass or process scrap metal for re-use
- recycling depots
- local seed stock development for reclamation
- milling techniques for small dimensional lumber
- reclamation techniques
- distributorships for 'environmentally friendly' products
- businesses that offer local expertise in conservation
- diaper service

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Environmental Protection Issues

Previous sections of this strategy have dealt almost exclusively with how to conserve our resources and how to develop a sustainable economy. When we are using these resources, however, we also need to take active steps to protect the integrity of the environment. This is fundamental to sustainable development.

To meet this need for environmental protection, actions are recommended in the following areas:

- pollution control
- waste management
- management of toxic and hazardous materials
- preparation for environmental emergencies

Pollution Control

The Yukon has a reputation for having pristine lakes and streams and clean air. This reputation attracts people to both visit and live here. We need to protect this reputation and ensure it is well-deserved.

To control and reduce pollution, *the government will:*

In Progress

- enact environmental protection legislation that controls discharges of polluting substances into the air and water and on land
- work with municipal governments to promote the use of the most efficient, carefully sized heating equipment, such as wood stoves, and other appliances
- cooperate with the federal government on new legislation to govern inland waters in the Yukon

In the 1990's

- negotiate the transfer of water and land resources to the Yukon government to facilitate the control and regulation of pollution
- develop materials to inform the public on methods of preventing pollution
- continue, and expand, programs that educate our children about local and global pollution problems

The Warming of Our Planet

People have dramatically increased the level of carbon dioxide, methane, and other so-called "greenhouse gases" found in the earth's atmosphere. These gases trap more of the sun's energy in the air layers closer to the earth's surface than normal. This leads to a gradual increase in the average temperature of the atmosphere.

Although the pace of this change is not yet known in any detail, it could eventually have major negative consequences for our planet. Warming will lead to changes in the sea level and major variations in climate. This will in turn have significant effects on our agricultural production and many other economic activities. Not all effects are obvious or predictable.

We have no choice in this matter. We *must* reduce our production of "greenhouse gases." We *must* reduce the loss of forests that assist in absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. We *must* reduce our use of fossil fuels and industrial processes that produce carbon dioxide.

Waste Management

Managing our garbage and our garbage dumps is becoming a bigger and bigger problem. We need to find, and put in place, effective methods to reduce and reuse our waste. Otherwise, more and more land will have to be set aside for landfills.

To provide for more effective management of our waste materials, *the government will:*

In Progress

- introduce a solid waste management policy and regional management plans
- include waste management in environmental protection legislation for the Yukon
- develop a strategy for selecting and managing land fill sites in an environmentally sound manner
- carry out a public education and information program to reduce the amount of garbage produced and increase the conservation of resources
- promote and assist recycling operations

In the 1990's

- improve waste management facilities
- work with communities to provide at least secondary sewage treatment where appropriate
- support research into recycling techniques for Yukon conditions
- examine the feasibility of internal government recycling programs
- in cooperation with the private sector, establish a register of waste products to determine opportunities for exchanging and reusing waste materials
- explore the establishment of "conservation audits" to assist businesses in improving their waste management practices and their use and reuse of materials

Businesses and individuals can:

- reduce waste by composting organic materials and buying products with less packaging
- recycle and reuse paper, plastic and other products
- explore business opportunities in recycling

The Three New R's

Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

- Buy products with less packaging
- Use non-disposable, biodegradable, and non-aerosol products
- Reduce energy use through conservation
- Re-use bottles, containers, and bags
- Compost organic garbage
- Support recycling programs when available
- 'One person's trash is another's treasure'
  - Hold a garbage sale
  - Take your unwanted clothes to charity

The three R's can help us manage our waste more effectively.

To these three R's, we can add a fourth: ***re-think***. For many of us, conservation means thinking about our daily consumptive habits and changing them.

● Litter control

To provide better litter control, *the government will work with communities, Yukon First Nations, groups, and individuals to:*

In Progress

- develop an anti-litter program for use in Yukon schools
- establish a promotional and advertising campaign designed to reduce littering
- enhance assistance given to communities, bands, groups and individuals to carry out cleanup campaigns throughout the Yukon
- recognize outstanding contributions to a litter-free Yukon
- include penalties for littering in environmental protection legislation

Management of Toxic and Hazardous Materials

Environmental disasters create more than headlines. They pose a danger to public health and safety. They cost money to clean up. They are also costly in terms of their effects on the environment and the disruption to people's lives. Active management of toxic and hazardous materials is needed to ensure environmental accidents do not occur.

To enhance protection from toxic and hazardous chemicals, *the government will:*

In Progress

- include provisions for the proper use, storage and disposal of toxic substances in environmental protection legislation
- provide safe storage facilities for hazardous materials and wastes
- work with the federal government in implementing the Canadian Environmental Protection Act in the Yukon

In the 1990's

- prepare a territorial strategy for the removal and destruction of toxic chemicals
- work cooperatively with other jurisdictions to gain access to destruction facilities
- develop policies to govern reclamation of industrial sites
- prepare policies for assessing and cleaning up existing contaminated sites
- encourage and support regular disposal days for hazardous materials
- provide public education on toxic and hazardous materials and possible substitutes

Industry can:

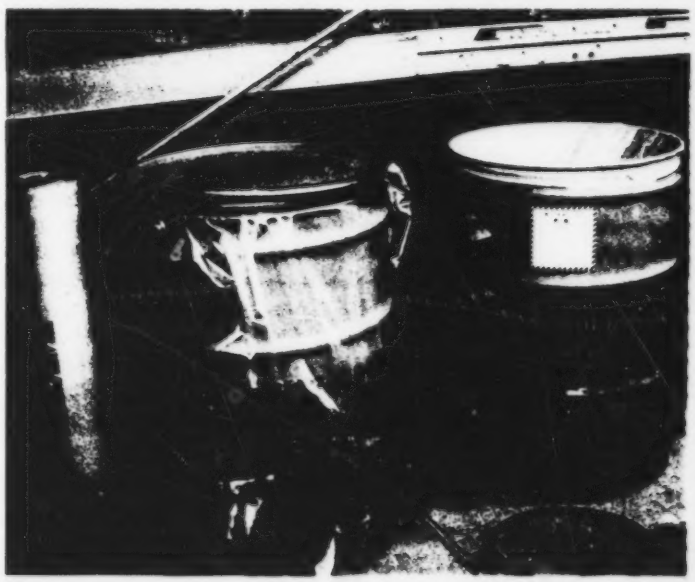
- provide appropriate training for employees working with toxic chemicals, as required under the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
- adopt appropriate handling, storage and disposal practices that not only conform to the letter of the law but anticipate and prevent problems

Public interest groups, such as the Yukon Conservation Society, can:

- continue to hold regular disposals days for hazardous household materials
- promote public awareness of hazardous materials and substitutes for these products

Individuals can:

- eliminate or reduce the use of hazardous household products by substituting them with products not harmful to the environment
- dispose of hazardous products properly



Preparation for Environmental Emergencies

No matter how careful we are with toxic and hazardous materials, there is still the possibility of some sort of spill or environmental emergency. We need to make sure that we are prepared to limit the damage from any spill or similar emergency.

To be properly prepared for environmental emergencies, *the government will:*

In Progress

- include in a comprehensive environmental protection act the necessary provisions to ensure rapid and well-coordinated responses to spills
- undertake a complete review of existing environmental emergency procedures and evaluate the territory's level of preparedness
- work with the responsible federal agencies to ensure that cooperative contingency plans are workable and up-to-date

In the 1990's

- work with responsible federal agencies to regularly review and update contingency plans
- provide a workable mechanism to apply the "polluter pays" principle in environmental clean-ups
- provide on-going public education about the risks and dangers inherent in using toxic and hazardous materials

Our Culture, History and Heritage

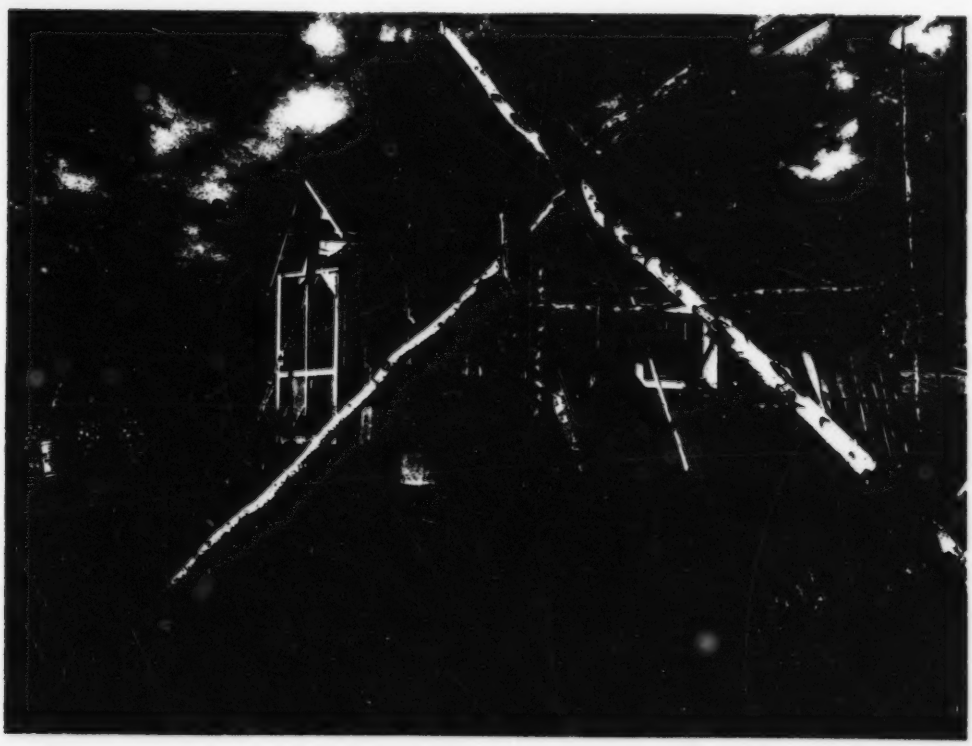
Our Culture, History and Heritage

The Yukon Conservation Strategy not only deals with our natural resources and environment, it also addresses historical and cultural human interactions with the natural environment.

Knowledge of our history — the way in which previous generations of Yukoners lived in the world around them — will deepen our understanding of where we are and the consequences of our actions. An appreciation of the different perspectives the territory's aboriginal and non-aboriginal people have of the natural environment and its resources will also enhance our understanding and ability to manage these resources.

To address cultural, historical and heritage issues, actions are recommended in the following areas:

- human heritage
- traditional aboriginal knowledge



Human Heritage

Human heritage means the history of human interaction with the natural world and evidence of human use, whether it is a building or other type of historic site or a written or visual record of human activity. We need to protect the Yukon's heritage resources because they give us a broad context in which to value our natural world, its rivers and mountains, and its plants and animals.

To improve our knowledge of the Yukon's history and the way in which people related to the natural environment in the past, *the government will:*

In Progress

- encourage the continued collection of oral histories and stories, as well as films, photos and historical documents
- protect and preserve aboriginal cultural heritage and languages in the Yukon
- incorporate historical and heritage information into our school curriculum and educational materials

To preserve and protect the Yukon's human heritage, *the government will:*

In Progress

- enact legislation to provide a comprehensive framework for protecting and preserving the Yukon's historical resources
- continue to inventory, protect and preserve historic, archaeological, and heritage sites, paying particular attention to aboriginal sites and history
- develop a system to identify and protect historical sites in the Yukon
- provide for continued public access to archival materials reflecting the Yukon's historical heritage
- encourage public involvement in the protection of the Yukon's human heritage by establishing a historic resources board

In the 1990's

- work cooperatively with the Yukon First Nations to protect and interpret aboriginal heritage in territorial parks
- implement the Yukon Museums Policy and work towards developing the infrastructure necessary to preserve, interpret, and display the Yukon's historical resources

Traditional Aboriginal Knowledge

The aboriginal peoples of the Yukon have a wealth of information and knowledge about use and management of the territory's resources, from hunting and trapping to the protection of key land and water systems. It can help broaden understanding of our resources and improve their management. This knowledge needs to be taken into account in making decisions about the allocation and protection of fish and wildlife and management of the Yukon's environment.

To encourage greater awareness and understanding of aboriginal knowledge and to ensure better integration of aboriginal and "scientific" knowledge in management decisions, *the government will:*

In Progress

- work with the Yukon First Nations to improve the information available on aboriginal management practices and knowledge
- promote and encourage the sharing of information on aboriginal management practices and knowledge
- spend more time with Yukon communities sharing information on approaches to projects and research findings
- provide opportunities for cooperative management of natural resources, working with First Nations and appropriate boards and councils

In the 1990's

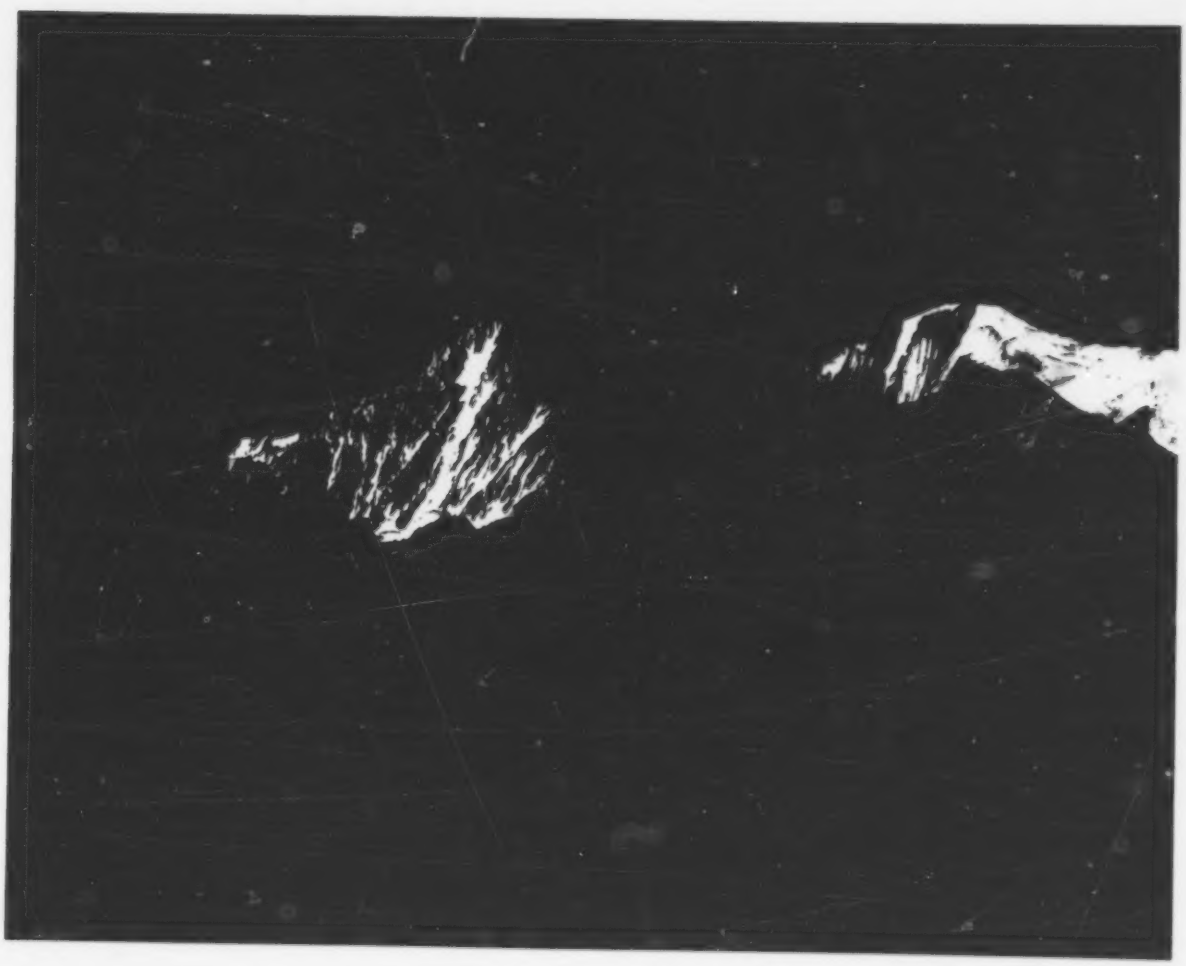
- support traditional uses of resources by Indian people to help maintain spiritual, social, and cultural values of communities and of the Yukon First Nations
- encourage the continued documentation of the history of the Yukon Indian people, especially in relation to the care and protection of the land and its resources
- where feasible, provide assistance in language interpretation for decision-making processes on resource management to promote better understanding of issues and points of view
- explore methods to more effectively communicate information about projects and research findings

Actions Must Speak Louder
Than Words

From Words to Actions

Developing a conservation strategy is a big job. But it is only part of the task. Actions have to be carried out. People have to know what the strategy is about, what it will do, and what they can do to support its underlying intent. There are several tools we can use to support the strategy and help achieve its objectives. These are:

- Demonstration projects
- Public awareness, education and training
- Public participation and involvement
- Financial support and incentives



Demonstration Projects

Demonstration projects provide practical examples of the wise use of resources. They can show us, in concrete terms, how we can undertake economic development projects in an environmentally sound manner.

The possibilities for demonstration projects in the Yukon are endless. They can be used to overcome conflicts between resource uses. They can provide solutions to local problems, such as waste management. And, they can enhance our understanding of the links between our environment and economy.

To promote the development of demonstration projects in the Yukon, *the government will:*

In Progress

- in cooperation with industry, communities, First Nations, and public interest groups, undertake projects that demonstrate sustainable use of resources and sustainable development
- fund demonstration projects through the Yukon Conservation Demonstration Projects Fund and the Fish Initiatives for Sustainable Harvest (FISH) Fund
- through the Yukon Conservation Demonstration Projects Fund, support community-based demonstration projects

In the 1990's

- continue to encourage demonstration projects on sustainable use of resources and sustainable development

Communities, businesses and organizations can:

- undertake demonstration projects and promote joint projects with government
- develop and participate in projects that demonstrate local approaches to resource conservation, such as recycling

A Yukon Demonstration Project

A cooperative project at the site of the Vangorda mineral deposit in Faro is an example of how a mining operation can proceed while protecting a local wildlife resource. Curragh Resources is now developing its ore deposits on the Vangorda Plateau. The new open pit mines and related infrastructure lie within the traditional migration route of a local herd of Fannin or stone sheep.

Curragh Resources and the Department of Renewable Resources are cooperating on a demonstration project designed to protect a migration corridor for the sheep across the plateau. An alternate route around the mine is also being developed for the sheep to use when they are migrating to their summer range at Mt. Mye.

This project presents an excellent opportunity to develop a wildlife viewing area where Yukoners and visitors to our territory can observe the sheep. Interpretive displays for residents and tourists are planned as part of this demonstration project.

Education and Training

Public awareness, education, and training are critical components of encouraging conservation and sustainable development of our resources.

Our children must acquire the knowledge about their environment and resources that they will need to live in the world of tomorrow. Educational and training opportunities beyond the secondary school level will assist us in meeting new environmental challenges.

Several workshops have already been held on the Yukon Conservation Strategy to promote public discussion of its principles and intent. As part of its implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy, the government will increase its public education efforts.

● Education of our children

To ensure that young people in the Yukon gain a broad understanding of the natural world, *the government will:*

In Progress

- in cooperation with interested groups, develop and run a conservation camp for young people in the Yukon

In the 1990's

- explore methods and provide support to further incorporate conservation principles into the school curriculum
- prepare a children's version of the conservation strategy

The education system can:

- continue to provide opportunities for students to increase their knowledge of conservation and the environment
- support learning through activities such as science fairs and field trips

Educating Our Children

Project WILD

Education is a key element in changing the way many of us have viewed our environment and its resources. Education involves us all. But we need to pay special attention to our children.

Project WILD is one program that's available as a supplemental course in Yukon schools to teach our children about conservation and our environment. Project WILD gives young people information and skills, so they can make informed decisions and take responsible actions concerning wildlife and the environment.

Children learn with the help of a 250-page activity book, containing 80 different class activities for students from kindergarten through to high school. They learn and talk about such topics as wildlife values, ecological principles, and management and conservation.

Teachers interested in Project WILD attend a workshop that acquaints them with the course before it's introduced in the classroom.

Project WILD has a long, successful history. It started in the United States almost twenty years ago. Forty-seven states now offer it in their schools. The Canadian Wildlife Federation developed the Canadian version of Project WILD. It's currently taught in nine provinces as well as the Yukon.

Adult education

To promote education and training opportunities linked to the conservation of resources and environmental protection, *the government will:*

In the 1990's

- work with Yukon College to develop and enhance educational and training courses in these fields
- fund pilot projects that provide training and job skills related to resource conservation
- develop opportunities, such as extension courses and workshops, for people to upgrade skills related to conservation and environmental protection
- provide training and educational programs to pass on the skills of lifestyles based on wise use of resources

Public awareness and information

To promote public awareness and understanding about the conservation of our resources and sustainable development, *the government will:*

In Progress

- sponsor a series of workshops, to be known as "Conservation in Action"
- develop a consumer education course on conservation for adults
- explore opportunities to sponsor conferences and other educational forums in conjunction with public, community, and industry groups
- continue to develop a range of printed and audiovisual material on the wise use of our resources
- coordinate the distribution of materials on the conservation of resources through the Yukon library system and resource learning centres

In the 1990's

- promote broad public discussion of resource consumption aimed at increasing understanding of the consequences of uncontrolled consumption
- prepare informational materials aimed at increasing public knowledge of the consequences of uncontrolled consumption

Industry and public interest groups can:

- sponsor public forums on the conservation of resources and sustainable development relevant to their own activities
- develop public information materials on the conservation of resources and environmental protection as it relates to their projects

Public Participation and Involvement

Participation in achieving the objectives of the Yukon Conservation Strategy will take place at several levels. Involvement by communities and individuals throughout the Yukon is key to its success.

Community involvement and participation

To promote the involvement of Yukon communities in resource management, *the government will:*

In Progress

- work with the Council for Yukon Indians, the Yukon First Nations, and the federal government to settle Yukon Indian land claims
- establish local resource management councils as part of the settlement of land claims
- provide opportunities for community involvement in planning, managing, and assessing development projects
- continue to involve local residents in land use planning programs

In the 1990's

- promote information exchange between communities on conservation projects and ideas
- encourage the development of conservation strategies at the community level
- encourage public involvement through the development of community conservation strategies

Communities and individuals can:

- prepare a community conservation strategy
- investigate conservation projects and activities underway in other communities
- sponsor "model environmental citizen" promotions or awards programs.

What Is a Community Conservation Strategy?

A community conservation strategy is a particular type of demonstration project. It involves implementing the general principles and objectives of the Yukon-wide strategy at a local level. In other words, it takes theory and puts it into practice within a community.

The village of Old Crow has defined its own conservation objectives in a strategy. Community members have done this through a series of workshops and have included a series of recommended demonstration projects in their strategy. The Old Crow Conservation Strategy will form part of the community's input to the regional land use planning program and negotiations towards a final land claims settlement.

Other communities with an interest in a local strategy will be assisted by the Yukon government.

Individual involvement and participation

A group of Yukoners, known as the Public Working Group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy, has been instrumental in developing this strategy. In addition to the time and effort its members put into helping formulate the strategy's principles, objectives, and actions, they also prepared a statement on what individuals can do to protect the environment and conserve resources. Their ideas simply, but concisely, represent how individuals can contribute to the objectives of this strategy.

Individuals can:

- respect the dignity of planet Earth, all of its lifeforms, and all of its natural workings and cycles
- learn all they can about environmental problems facing this plant and its inhabitants
- teach a child about those problems and talk about solutions so that they gain a better understanding and respect for the environment
- break away from consumptive habits that are wasteful and destructive
- believe that every one of us can make a difference, and show what they are doing to set a positive example

Cooperating with Non-governmental Conservation Groups

Governments benefit tremendously from the assistance and participation of non-government groups in conservation programs. The enthusiasm and resources of conservation organizations are often a necessary addition to ongoing programs. This is particularly true in the Yukon with our small population and limited information about most of our natural resources.

In recent years, several Yukon groups and national organizations, such as Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the World Wildlife Fund, have made very important contributions to understanding our wildlife resources. There are other examples of successful collaboration in other resource areas.

The Yukon government wants to continue collaborative programs, such as the inventories of wildlife habitats now underway. It will work to promote and foster positive relationships with these non-government groups.

Financial Support and Incentives

The Yukon government will be tackling many of the new priorities in the Conservation Strategy by reorienting existing resources and through cooperation with the federal government. It is not intended that the Strategy will require major new funding.

Funds are already available for community and interest groups involved or interested in demonstration projects and for special programs, such as fishery enhancement projects, a youth conservation camp, and the implementation of Project WILD in Yukon schools. There's also funding available under the Business and Community Development Funds, which could be used for projects reflecting objectives of the conservation strategy.

Financial incentives can support new approaches or programs and encourage public participation. The 25 cent deposit now paid on returned liquor bottles, for example, has reduced litter in the Yukon. This scheme could be modified to help achieve more effective ways of disposing of or reducing waste. Incentives could also be designed for many other purposes, such as encouraging reclamation of industrial sites.

Environmentally Sound Investments

In recent years there's been a rapid increase in the number of "ethical investment" mutual funds. These allow concerned individuals to invest money in companies that have particularly good records on such things as human rights issues, labour relations, etc. Some of these investment groups have included environmental matters in their list of criteria.

Since the oil spill in Valdez, Alaska a coalition of environmental organizations, investment companies, and progressive firms have drafted a set of principles for environmentally sound investing. The **VALDEZ PRINCIPLES** will be circulated to business organizations and corporations. If the company endorses the principles, they will receive an endorsement and will be promoted as a good investment choice for people concerned about the health of our environment. A summary of the Valdez Principles is presented below:

Protection of the Biosphere. Participants will try to eliminate pollutants that damage the air, water or earth.

Sustainable Use of Natural Resources. Pledges use of renewable resources, conservation of non-renewable materials and preservation of biological diversity.

Reduction and Disposal of Waste. Pledges minimizing and safely disposing of hazardous wastes.

Wise Use of Energy. Calls for energy efficient products and processes.

Risk Reduction. Pledges reducing environmental risks and preparing for accidents.

Marketing of Safe Products and Services. Pledges disclosure of environmental impact of products and services.

Damage Compensation. Pledges restoration of damaged environments and compensation for human injury.

Disclosure. Pledges disclosure of accidents and hazards and protection of employees who report them.

Environmental Directors and Managers. Companies agree that at least one board member will be an environmental expert. A senior executive for environmental affairs will be appointed.

Assessment and Annual Audit. Pledges annual environmental audits of worldwide operations. Audits to be made public.

As individuals living and working in a market economy, we have tremendous power to affect the behaviour of companies. If we change our consumptive patterns or if we reward environmentally sound corporations through our investment choices, we will change the way the business community operates.

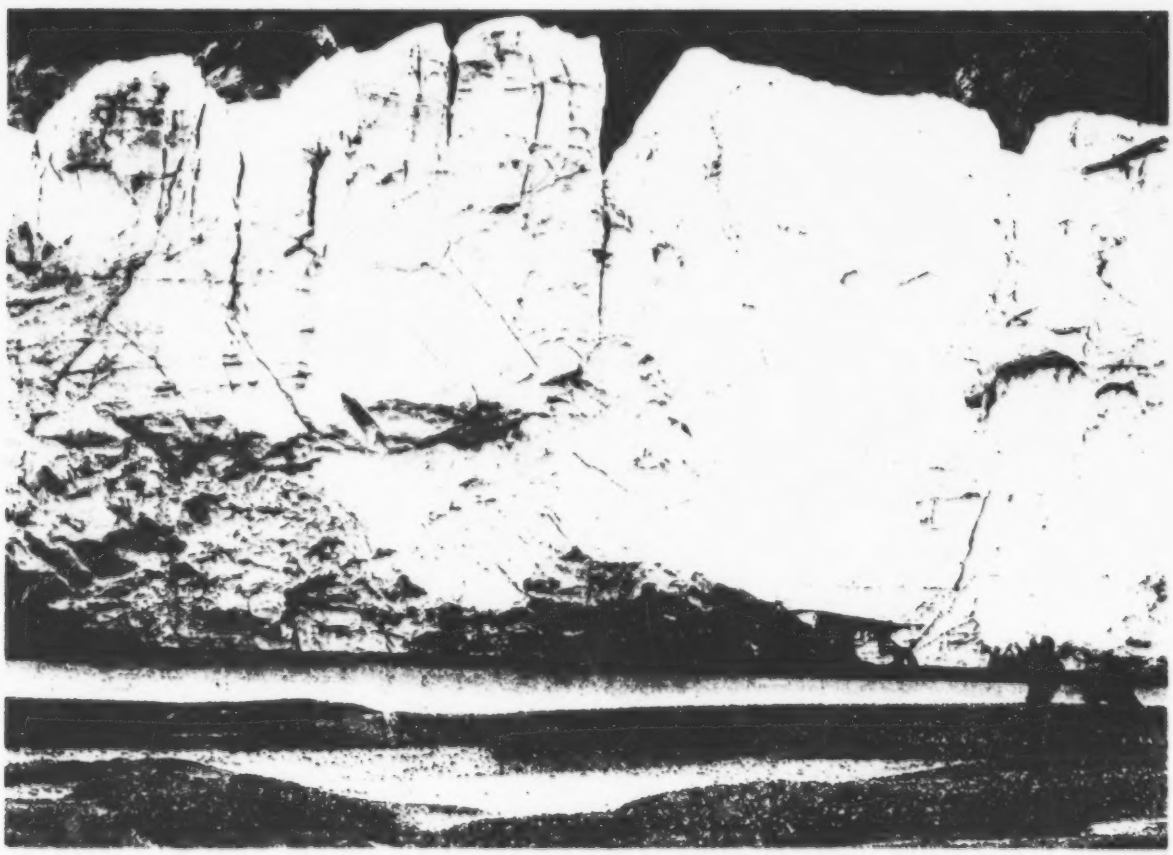
To ensure that financial support is available to support implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy, *the government will:*

In Progress

- provide funding for demonstration projects
- ensure that government policies and funding programs are environmentally friendly
- encourage federal funding of sustainable development projects through programs such as the Environmental Partners Fund and the Federal Environmental Agenda
- assist community or interest groups in gaining access to funding from philanthropic foundations

In the 1990's

- undertake a broad examination of financial incentives that could be used to promote the sustainable use of renewable resources, the long term development of non-renewable resources, and the protection of the natural environment



Implementation by Government

As co-managers of the territory's natural resources, the Yukon and federal governments have an important role in translating the words of this Strategy into action. Some of these actions will be achieved as part of overall plans by government departments towards conservation. Others will be accomplished through cooperation and negotiation with the federal government and through processes such as the Indian land claims settlement with the Yukon First Nations.

Yukon Government Actions

The Yukon government plans to take a series of actions designed to achieve or promote the objectives of the Yukon Conservation Strategy.

A Government Position on Environmental Responsibility and Ethics

As part of the Conservation Strategy, the Yukon government has adopted a position on the environment. This position, outlined on the opposite page, makes clear the government's commitment to environmentally sound economic development. It sets out what the government and its employees will do to to meet this goal.

Government as a Model Environmental Citizen

The Yukon government will review all of its purchasing practices to ensure that to the greatest extent possible it does not use harmful products where alternatives exist. When the national system of "environmentally friendly products" is in place, the government will participate. It will examine internal practices in an effort to reduce its rate of consumption and waste. It will study the economics of recycling, and where feasible recyclable products will be collected and provided to community recycling programs.

Departmental 'Action Plans'

The Yukon Conservation Strategy has proposed a range of changes in the way government departments manage resources. To outline how these changes will be carried out, each department of the Yukon government will develop an 'action plan'. It will respond to actions relevant to its responsibilities and indicate how it will put these recommendations in place. The Yukon government will also encourage federal departments active in the Yukon to prepare action plans.

The Department of Renewable Resources and the Executive Council Office will assist other departments in preparing and implementing action plans.

● Department of Renewable Resources

As the lead government agency for development of the Yukon Conservation Strategy, the Department of Renewable Resources has a special responsibility to ensure that actions outlined in the Conservation Strategy are reflected in the management of resources within its mandate.

To achieve this, the department is now preparing a Strategic Plan that will set its directions for the next five years. This plan will provide a detailed description of what the Department of Renewable Resources will actually do to implement the Yukon Conservation Strategy.

● Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment

The Yukon government has set up a Council on the Economy and the Environment to advise it on how best to achieve sustainable development in the territory. Part of its job will be to examine the progress made on carrying out the actions of both the Yukon Conservation Strategy and the Yukon Economic Strategy.

The Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment will also review the progress made on developing and implementing departmental 'action plans' one year after the strategy's release.

Where Does the Yukon Government Stand on the Environment?

A Statement of Environmental Responsibility and Ethics

The people of the Yukon, native and non-native, have called for balanced and sustainable development of our natural resources. To be sustainable, development must be environmentally and economically sound. It must meet the needs of the present generation, but not compromise the needs of future generations.

The people of the Yukon have also called for the continued protection of lifestyle choices, including the opportunity to live off the land, and the maintenance of the natural environment that nurtures and inspires us and our many visitors.

To help achieve these objectives, the Government of the Yukon pledges to:

- Assess the positive and negative effects of all resource development activities. The negative effects of development, whether social or environmental, will be minimized.
- Consider all environmental attributes in the government's decision-making and regulatory processes. In particular, this means recognizing the important value of wildlife in supporting the food, recreational and cultural needs of Yukoners. And it means respecting the Yukon wilderness as a resource in its own right that has both economic and non-economic value.
- Protect essential ecosystems and ecosystem processes and ensure that water, trees, wildlife and other resources are available for all time.
- Protect the biological and genetic diversity of all Yukon plant and animal species.
- Educate Yukoners and their children to help them understand the value of our land and resources and to recognize the fundamental relationship between a healthy environment and cultural, community, social, economic, and individual health and well-being. This includes explaining that we are individually responsible, in our everyday lives, for protecting the environment.
- Provide all Yukoners with the opportunity to be involved in, and contribute to, all decisions about our land and resources.
- Recognize and respect the international significance of the Yukon's environment. This means cooperating with our neighbours on the management of shared resources at the local, national, and international level.
- Reflect the principles of sustainable development and sound environment management in all government projects, policies, and programs.
- Ensure Yukon government employees understand their individual responsibility for protecting the environment when carrying out their duties.

The Government of the Yukon is committed to these principles and will carry out its duties in a way that is consistent with the expressed objectives of Yukoners.

In its commitment to these principles, the Government of the Yukon will continue to support the social and economic development of Yukon communities and the health and social well-being of Yukoners.

● Legislative Change

To achieve the objectives of the Yukon Conservation Strategy, some new laws will be passed. Others will be changed. In some cases, the government will be developing new legislation in conjunction with the transfer of responsibilities from the federal government. In others, it will be building on existing laws.

Commitments made in this strategy include:

- a comprehensive Environmental Protection Act, which will set water and air quality standards and improve waste management activities
- a new Development Assessment Act to provide a formal process for assessing environmental and socioeconomic impacts of development activities
- a new Forests Act, which will direct the conservation and use of forest resources when this responsibility is transferred to the Yukon government
- a new Historic Resources Act to protect the territory's historical resources
- a revised Wildlife Act that will better protect important wildlife habitats and threatened or endangered species of plants and animals and provide more effective deterrents to abuses of wildlife laws
- changes to the Parks Act to improve the ability to manage lands within territorial parks
- changes to the Highways Act to allow roads to be closed for environmental or conservation reasons in addition to public safety reasons
- a new Education Act which includes a commitment for curricula that includes the cultural heritage of Yukon aboriginal people and the Yukon's natural environment.
- a new Water Act to direct the conservation and use of water resources after these resources are transferred to the Yukon government's control
- a joint commitment with the federal government to seek comprehensive changes to federal and territorial lands legislation to improve the administration of lands and to provide better tools for implementing regional land use plans
- a commitment by the federal government (in the Northern Mineral Policy) to update legislation governing hard rock and placer mining in the Yukon, which the Yukon government believes is necessary
- new legislation to allow Yukon control over petroleum resources under the terms of the Northern Accord
- a Pesticides Control Act to regulate the safe use and storage of pesticides

All legislative initiatives will have opportunities for public and industry involvement.

● Intergovernmental Actions

Federal legislation, such as the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, sets national standards that must be met across the country. In the North, the federal government still retains control over many natural resources. These are reasons why the Yukon and federal governments need to cooperate on achieving the strategy's objectives. As part of this cooperation, the Yukon government will seek federal endorsement of the Conservation Strategy. The two governments will also work together on several initiatives to meet its objectives.

● Canada-Yukon Environment Accord

The Yukon and federal governments are interested in negotiating a federal-territorial accord on the environment. This agreement would improve communication and coordination between the territorial and federal governments and the private sector. It would help ensure that government and business activities reinforce each other in achieving environmental protection and sustainable development of our natural resources.

An environment accord would also form the basis for more specific agreements related to the conservation and development of the Yukon's natural resources.

● State of the Environment and Economy Reports

To provide a benchmark against which we can measure our progress towards sustainable development, the Yukon government, in cooperation with federal agencies, will produce State of the Environment and Economy Reports. These will be published every five years and will list the various indicators of environmental and economic well-being.

● Regional Development Agreements

As part of the move to a national program of sustainable development, the federal government plans to revise the criteria used for approving economic and regional development agreements. The Yukon government supports this approach. It has proposed that a new Economic Development Agreement for the Yukon include an environmental mitigation component to support innovative environmental protection projects by developers.

● Transfer of Federal Responsibilities

The responsibility for certain Yukon resources, such as forestry and water, now lies with the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Yukon government is involved in negotiations to assume control of responsibilities, such as forestry.

The transfer of remaining resource responsibilities to the Yukon government will help integrate management of land, air, water, and their resources. Negotiations on specific transfers will also provide an opportunity for careful planning and developing clear goals and objectives for resource use. This government will, for example, prepare comprehensive forestry legislation and policies in conjunction with the transfer of forest resources to its control.

● New Resource Management Processes

New processes to manage our natural resources will be put in place as a result of initiatives such as the settlement of the Yukon land claim. Others will result directly from this Strategy. These processes will promote the achievement of its objectives.

● Yukon Land Claims

Conservation of the Yukon's resources and sustainable development will be an integral part of a land claims settlement with the Yukon First Nations. The same is true of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement in the northern Yukon.

Measures to achieve these objectives include:

- establishment of conservation and sustainable use as the principles for resource use
- creation of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board and local Renewable Resource Councils to provide greater public and community involvement in managing all wildlife resources
- the Wildlife Act will apply to all Yukoners
- creation of a $3 million trust fund to develop and enhance fish and wildlife populations in the Yukon
- establishment of a Surface Rights Board to resolve questions regarding access to privately held land in the Yukon, including settlement lands
- subagreements on land use planning and development assessment *[see below]*

● Land Use Planning

In the fall of 1987, the Yukon and federal governments and the Council for Yukon Indians endorsed a land use planning agreement. This agreement is intended to provide a land use planning process that will assist the federal and Yukon governments and the Council for Yukon Indians in applying social, cultural, economic, and environmental policies to the management of the Yukon's natural resources. The Umbrella Final Agreement on the Yukon Indian land claim repeats the commitment of these three parties to the general aspects of this agreement.

Under the agreement, regional planning commissions, made up of Yukoners, will be established to oversee the preparation and implementation of land use plans for the planning regions of the Yukon. A planning commission has already been created for the Kluane region, and work is underway on a land use plan for the area.

The preparation of regional land use plans for the Yukon provide a means to implement the Yukon Conservation Strategy. It can assist in:

- coordinating renewable and non-renewable resource activities and processes
- identifying and resolving issues about natural resource use and related social, cultural and environmental issues
- giving Yukoners a voice in allocation of land in the territory

● Integrated Resource Management

Completing land use plans for areas of the Yukon is the first step in ensuring that the resources allocated to various uses will be well managed. But resource managers must also have operational plans that effectively implement the land uses chosen for a particular area.

Particularly in areas where there is competition for resources, it is essential that management of resources be well integrated and undertaken in a cooperative manner with local residents. In practical terms, this means that wildlife, forestry, land, water and other resource managers work on management activities together, not in isolation. The best and most carefully developed wildlife management plan will fail if it is not integrated with forest management and other plans.

The Yukon government is committed to plans that integrate its day-to-day management activities with those of the federal government and Yukon First Nations.

● Development Assessment Process

Both the Umbrella Final Agreement on the Yukon Indian land claim and the Yukon Economic Strategy contain a commitment that the Yukon government institute a development assessment process. The Conservation Strategy makes this same commitment. It is a key component of a plan to integrate economic and environmental planning and management.

This process will review and assess socioeconomic and environmental impacts, costs and benefits of all industrial and commercial developments, including those developed, regulated, or funded by government. Measures designed to lessen any negative impacts can be incorporated into development plans.

The development assessment process will provide an effective mechanism to meet our economic, social and cultural goals while protecting our environment.

Our National and International Commitments

National and International Cooperation and Commitments

The Yukon participates in a wide variety of national and international research and management programs designed to achieve long-term conservation of natural and human heritage throughout Canada and the circumpolar North.

The Yukon is, for example, a member of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. This group and its various committees are involved in studies and discussions on a wide range of environmental issues, including hazardous waste, toxic substances, water and air quality, and issues related to the "greenhouse effect".

The Yukon and the federal government are signatories to several international treaties and agreements. Financial resources will continue to be made available so the government can to carry on work related to these treaties and agreements. Examples include:

- International Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Migratory Birds Convention Act

Building Northern and National Conservation Framework

In addition to implementing the Yukon Conservation Strategy, the Yukon government is involved in efforts on two broader fronts to build strong links between conservation strategies. A Northern Conservation Working Group, involving the federal and territorial governments, is working towards a common base for conservation activities across northern Canada and the circumpolar Arctic. This common base will represent a strongly defined Northern Conservation Framework reflecting issues of importance to all northern people, issues such as the economic future and social well-being of small communities, the continued viability of trapping as an industry, the protection of renewable resources and support for continued subsistence harvesting, and the impacts of long range air and water pollution. A Northern Conservation Framework will ultimately be represented in a Regional Circumpolar Conservation Strategy, a concept which was supported internationally at a World Conservation Strategy Conference in Ottawa in 1986 and which the Inuit Circumpolar Conference is vigorously pursuing with government. More immediately, the framework will be reflected in the linkages between the Yukon Conservation Strategy and the Arctic Marine Conservation Strategy, between the Yukon strategy and the NWT strategy, and between regional and community conservation strategies.

At the same time that northerners are working together to develop a Northern Conservation Framework, northerners are also contributing to efforts towards building a National Conservation Strategy for Canada. For northern issues to be reflected in a national strategy, it is critical that a coherent, comprehensive and integrated northern perspective be carried into national discussions in which West Coast, Prairie, Central Canadian, and Maritime interests will all have a strong voice and will all focus on issues of urgency and importance to their regions.

Cooperative work to link conservation strategies, ultimately, is an inevitable consequence of the increasing recognition that we live in a world-wide community and that we can no longer safely assume that what happens in other regions and other nations will have little effect on our lives. Indeed, the food we eat, the air we breathe, the household substances we cook and clean with, the wood we use for furniture and the oil and gas products we use for energy all carry with them questions about the long-term integrity of the environment and the long-term lifestyle options for our future generations.

The Yukon government is also involved in several formal and informal working groups and committees. These include:

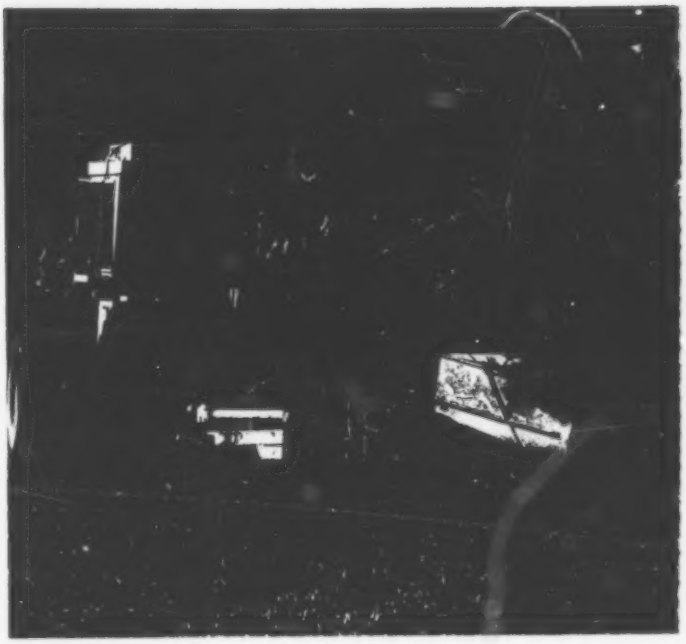
- efforts to rebuild salmon stocks through negotiations with the U.S. and Alaskan governments
- information sharing on agriculture
- efforts to rebuild the Forty Mile Caribou herd
- development of a northern perspective on fur as part of Canada's defense of the trapping industry

In addition, there is a growing sense in northern Canada of a community of common interest on issues such as air pollution.

Central to interjurisdictional work on conservation strategies is the Working Group on Northern Conservation Strategies, which includes federal government agencies, the Yukon and Northwest Territories governments, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, and Indigenous Survival International. This group has a mandate to work towards a circumpolar conservation strategy.

To approach a circumpolar conservation strategy in a realistic manner, the first commitment is to work on regional strategies that achieve modest improvements in international cooperation. Early efforts include:

- improving the cooperation between the Yukon and Alaska on resource management issues in consultation with the respective federal governments and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, including specific projects to:
  - support implementation of a regional strategy for the Gwich'in people, involving Old Crow, Fort McPherson and Alaskan communities
  - complete implementation of the UNESCO Biosphere Program in two transborder areas
- consultation and cooperation between the governments of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans on the Arctic Marine Conservation Strategy, the Yukon Conservation Strategy, and the NWT Sustainable Development Strategy
- work between the NWT, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference to introduce a cooperative arrangement with Greenland on managing shared marine resources



In the long term, these various transborder projects will add up to a circumpolar conservation strategy.

The Working Group on Northern Conservation Strategies is committed to implementing a circumpolar strategy as effectively and quickly as possible. One of the best ways to do this is to use existing methods of international cooperation, such as the UNESCO Biosphere Program. This program is in part designed to implement a system of "biosphere reserves", or established areas that include a park or protected area surrounded by a zone of cooperation in which economic development and research is encouraged. In this manner, the goals of conservation and sustainable development can be achieved cooperatively.

In the Yukon and Alaska, there are several potential areas for "biosphere reserves", such as Kluane and the Wrangell/Glacier Bay area in Alaska and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the northern Yukon. Promotion and implementation of the Biosphere Program for suitable transborder areas will continue to be an important part of our international programs.

Evaluating

Monitoring Our Progress

The Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment has been established to, among other things, look at how well we as Yukoners carry out the actions recommended in the Yukon Conservation Strategy.

The Council will be examining both our economy and our environment as an integrated whole, rather than taking the more traditional view that the two are separate and often opposing forces.

In establishing the new Council, the Yukon government has responded to a major recommendation of the National Task Force on the Environment and Economy. In its 1987 report, the National Task Force called on all Canadian jurisictions to create Round Tables that would bring together business, labour, government, aboriginal, community, environmental, and resource interests to work cooperatively on fostering and promoting environmentally sound economic development.

In keeping with the recommendation of the National Task Force, the new Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment includes members from a range of groups interested in environmental and economic issues in the Yukon. The senior levels of government are represented by the Ministers of Economic Development and Renewable Resources.

The Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment is to encourage sustainable development of the territory's renewable resources and environmentally sound development of our non-renewable resources.

More specifically, its responsibilities are to:

- Review and provide advice to government on major policy, legislative, and program initiatives on the Yukon's environment and economy
- Take a leadership role in working with various sectors towards environmentally sound economic development
- Function as the central advisory group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy and the Yukon Economic Strategy
- Monitor progress on implementing these strategies and evaluate their success in guiding environmentally sound economic development and diversification in the Yukon
- Encourage industry, government, labour, and aboriginal and non-governmental organizations to develop projects that demonstrate environmentally sound economic development
- Arrange public symposiums on major economic and environmental issues
- Promote public awareness and understanding of the links between the environment and economy and the importance of integrating environmental and economic planning and management
- Recommend appropriate research by government, industry, labour, communities, public interest and aboriginal groups and others to further our understanding of the Yukon economy and environment
- Review and comment on reports that address the state of the Yukon's economy, environment and resources

Updating the Yukon Conservation Strategy

The Yukon Conservation Strategy is a dynamic plan. It is designed to guide our present and future actions towards using our resources wisely and building a sustainable economy based on these resources.

As this future unfolds, we will learn more about the links between our economy and our environment. So, we will improve our ability to integrate economic and environmental planning and management. We will come up with new methods and approaches for effectively using and managing our resources for the long term. And, we will develop innovative techniques and technologies in such areas as environmental assessment and protection.

We will need to update the Yukon Conservation Strategy to account for these improvements. This will be done. The Yukon government will be revising the Strategy on a regular basis to acknowledge new developments towards environmentally sound economic development and to identify additional needs.

Preparation of regular reports on the state of the Yukon's economy and environment will help with revisions to the strategy. The first State of the Yukon's Environment and Economy Report will be produced early in the 1990's. Subsequent reports will be issued every five years. Updates to the Yukon Conservation Strategy will be tied to a similar schedule.

After the release of the Conservation Strategy, there will be a period for business, community, aboriginal and public interest groups to review and comment on this document. At the same time government departments will have an opportunity to indicate, through the preparation of "action plans", how they will implement the strategy's recommendations.

A report outlining the views of various organizations on the strategy and early progress on its implementation would help determine how successful the Strategy has been initially in promoting sustainable economic development in the territory. The Yukon government will ask the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment to produce a progress report one year after the Strategy's release.

Appendices

Development of the Yukon Conservation Strategy

The expression 'conservation strategy' was first used in the late '70's when three international groups began working on a broad and ambitious plan, a plan to ensure the ongoing health of this planet and well-being of its people through conserving the world's living resources. In 1980 these three groups — the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Wildlife Fund — published the *World Conservation Strategy*.

The World Conservation Strategy contains hundreds of suggestions and ideas. Some are them are directed at specific problems; others address a range of related issues. One of its fundamental messages is often expressed in the words, "think globally, act locally." In other words, we can address global concerns and problems by taking actions closer to home. In keeping with this view, the World Conservation Strategy calls on nations and regions of the world to prepare their own conservation strategies. Since 1980 more than 40 countries have done so.

Other international and national groups have taken up the call for conservation strategies. In its 1987 Report, *Our Common Future*, the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) firmly supports them as a tool in achieving economic development based on the wise use of our living resources.

Canada's National Task Force on Environment and Economy, which included a former Minister of Renewable Resources for the Yukon among its members, has done the same. It has recommended that by 1992 each province and territory in this country have a conservation strategy in place to ensure our renewable resource base is sustained for future use and our environment can continue to support life.

Yukoners are not removed from global discussions. In the past few years, we have had several opportunities to present and discuss our views on the environment and its resources. In 1984, the Task Force on Northern Conservation brought together mining and oil and gas interests, governments, and environmentalists to consider how best to use and manage the resources of northern Canada. It recommends a northern conservation policy that would involve the integrated use and management of our resources.

Conservation Strategy Milestones

1972	The **Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment** identifies major global environmental issues and calls for a global strategy for reform.
1980	The **World Conservation Strategy** is released.
1983	The United Nations establishes the **World Commission on Environment and Development**, headed by Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway.
1986	The Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers establishes the **National Task Force on Environment and Economy** to prepare a Canadian response to the World Commission on Environment and Development.
1987	The World Commission on Environment and Development releases its report, **Our Common Future**.
1987	Canada's **National Task Force on Environment and Economy** releases its report, containing forty recommendations aimed at achieving sustainable development in this country. Its report is endorsed by the Prime Minister and provincial premiers at a First Ministers' Conference in November.
1988	The Yukon government releases the **Yukon Economic Strategy** committing the territory to the concept of sustainable economic development. The Yukon government endorses the National Task Force Report on Environment and Economy. A discussion paper, **Building a Conservation Strategy for the Yukon**, is released.

In 1986, members of the Yukon Legislature's Select Committee on Renewable Resources listened to Yukoners in 17 communities talk about their views on managing the territory's renewable resources. Its report echoes the values residents attach to the natural environment and our desires for the wise use of resources. Accordingly, the Select Committee's report calls for measures to protect and enhance our wildlife populations and their habitats. It also suggests we improve the way we manage our fisheries and forests and develop an agricultural policy that emphasizes land conservation.

Throughout the YUKON 2000 planning process Yukoners spoke of the need for development that does not deplete our renewable resources and allows for more stable growth from non-renewable resources. They also stressed the need and importance of protecting the natural environment and its cultural and heritage resources.

Yukoners' views about our environment and resources form the backdrop for the Yukon Conservation Strategy. They were the starting point for discussions on how, in a comprehensive way, we would use our resources wisely and carefully.

Yukoners were also directly involved in the development of a conservation strategy through a Public Working Group, formed in the summer of 1987. This group brought together a broad range of organizations and individuals with interests in resource use and management.

At the same time it was recognized that a conservation strategy would involve issues and programs that extended beyond the responsibilities of the Department of Renewable Resources. A Government Working Group including representatives from interested territorial and federal departments and agencies was set up. It provided an internal forum for discussions on the conservation strategy.

The Public Working Group met regularly during the fall and the early part of 1988 to define the concepts and ideas for a Yukon Conservation Strategy and to discuss its basic components. In the spring of 1988, these elements were pulled together at a weekend workshop at Marsh Lake. They formed the basis of the discussion paper, *Building a Conservation Strategy for the Yukon*, which was released for public review and comment in November of 1988.

Public Working Group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy

Groups actively involved in the development of the Yukon Conservation Strategy:

Association of Yukon Communities

Council for Yukon Indians

Curragh Resources

Ducks Unlimited

Federation of Yukon Wilderness Outfitters

Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce

Yukon Conservation Society

Yukon Federation of Labour

Yukon Fish and Game Association

Yukon Historical and Museums Association

Yukon Outfitters Association

Yukon Science Institute

Yukon Trappers Association

Individual members of the Public Working Group:

Doug Craig

Al Doherty

Craig Hart

Art Johns

Al Kapty

Kate McEwen

Nancy MacPherson

Mike Stutter

Secretariat: Janne Hicklin

The public discussion paper outlines principles that would guide the development of the Yukon Conservation Strategy and objectives that Yukoners want to realize from this comprehensive plan governing the use, management and protection of our natural and human heritage. Some suggested actions that would help to achieve the objectives are also presented.

After the release of *Building a Conservation Strategy for the Yukon*, increased efforts were made to improve public awareness and understanding of the strategy. More than a thousand copies of the discussion paper were mailed out; people were asked for their comments. A series of briefings were held with community and public interest groups and Indian bands to inform them of the conservation strategy and to seek their views. Four workshops were held on topics related to the strategy — environmental codes of practice for industry; environmental and conservation education; traditional aboriginal knowledge and resource management; and recycling.

At the same time, members of the Public and Government Working Groups continued to expand on the material contained in the public discussion paper. A second weekend workshop was held in March 1989 to refine the work to date and to examine what actions the conservation strategy should recommend for resource and economic sectors in the Yukon. These discussions and the comments received from Yukoners in letters, phone calls and at briefings and workshops have resulted in this document, the Yukon Conservation Strategy.

The Government of the Yukon acknowledges and sincerely thanks the many participants in this process for their dedication and the time and effort they willingly gave to the strategy's development. An added note of appreciation is extended to Mr. Larry Leigh of the Yukon Fish and Game Association and Dr. Doug Craig for chairing sessions of the Public Working Group.

Comments on the Strategy's Development

The Public Working Group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy has offered this critique of the strategy's development in which its members participated.

Beginning in the summer of 1987 a series of meetings was held to define issues and attempt to define possible courses of action towards a Yukon Conservation Strategy. This was in response to the earlier World Conservation Strategy (1980) and a recommendation by the National Task Force on Environment and Economy that conservation strategies be developed in each province and territory. One provincial conservation strategy has already been completed.

The membership of our group ranged from 10 to 20, representing numerous sectors, including mining interests, trapping, Indian society, the Yukon Conservation Society, and Ducks Unlimited, as well as several individual members who did not represent specific groups or sectoral interests. Typically, 50 to 60 percent of the group would be present at a given meeting, so the composition changed significantly at successive meetings. This resulted in old ground being gone over repeatedly, but it was actually valuable as specific aspects were debated from several points of view, with differing, often highly contributive, biases being presented.

A workshop, dubbed Marsh Lake I, in spring of 1988 brought together almost all of the group which had been meeting in fractions in Whitehorse. A formalized structure and report in the form of a public discussion paper emerged from this session, entitled *Building a Conservation Strategy for the Yukon.* This was released for public review and comment by then Renewable Resources Minister, David Porter, at a press conference in November 1988.

Because many members of the Public Working Group represented groups, but still contributed as individuals, an effort was made to have teams, normally of two people, address various groups in Yukon communities. We informed them of the issues involved in a conservation strategy and progress in analysing these issues. We tried to persuade them that a conservation philosophy is valuable, even essential, for the future well-being of the territory. A strategy and implementation of such a strategy is critical, and concurrence and participation by the population is the only way it can be effective. In other words, people must do the things the strategy says should be done.

Groups briefed include the Association of Yukon Communities, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, the Yukon Chamber of Mines and the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce.

A further series of meetings took place (some 8 in all) in which the specific sectors of the discussion paper were examined jointly by the Public Working Group and a Government Working Group consisting of senior federal and territorial officers. This was the most demanding part of the overall process, but, at the same time, perhaps the most valuable. Since a significant amount of the implementation will come about through government efforts, the perspective of these officers on what is possible help temper with reality the fine idealisms of what would be nice. All survived and the resulting product was almost certainly enhanced.

A group of 4 workshops were held in Whitehorse during the early part of 1989 with guest speakers dealing with specific topics, again providing a view on the possible.

A re-examination of all the preceding took place during a two day effort, dubbed Marsh Lake II, in March 1989. Again, with a facilitator, we explored the topics, putting the material into a near final form which with some further letters and workshops would require only editing and technical re-writing, but would preserve the topics, outlook, and perspective of the meetings.

The document, the Yukon Conservation Strategy, which you have before you is the cumulative result of this lengthy process. We hope that it will contribute to a conservation style in what we do in and to the Yukon.

Credits

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